

DATE: 07-19-2007  
CLASSIFIED BY 60324 AUC BAW/STP/CLS  
REASON: 1.4 (C)  
DECLASSIFY ON: 07-19-2032

CLASSIFIED BY 704 DSS LETTER  
DATED 03-12-2008

PP HQ ME M4 NO, WFO

DE BH

P 201337Z SEPT 84

FM BIRMINGHAM (2-26)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

MEMPHIS PRIORITY

MIAMI PRIORITY

NEW ORLEANS PRIORITY

WFO PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN: CID TERRORISM SECTION, DOMESTIC TERRORISM UNIT.

[REDACTED], AKA; NEUTRALITY MATTER-EL SALVADOR; CO:BM  
RE MEMPHIS TEL TO BUREAU AND BH DATED SEPT. 17, 1984.

ON SEPT. 13, 1984, [REDACTED] WAS INTERVIEWED AT THE

ALABAMA.

[REDACTED] FIRST HEARD OF CIVILIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE (CMA)

FROM AN AD IN THE DECATUR NEWSPAPER IN JAN, OR FEB, 1984. IN APRIL, 1984, HE ATTENDED A MEETING OF THE CMA HELD AT A RESTAURANT IN DECATUR. THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY 20 TO 25 PEOPLE AND THE MAIN

SPEAKER WAS AN FDN SPOKESMAN FROM MIAMI, FLA. AFTER THE MEETING,

Classified by 9145 JFE/alep/Bury  
Declassify on: OADR

# 258,908

SP8C10ms  
Civil Discovery

3/25/91  
SP8B/BWY  
307,697  
NOV 28 1984  
ATF, 9/20/84  
US Customs/OE  
hand comid to  
DOJ, 9/21/84

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Exec. AD-LES

Asst. Dir.:

Adm. Servs.

Crim. Inv.

Ident.

Inspection

Intell.

Laboratory

Off. Coun.

Rec. Cong.

Public Affs.

Rec. Mgmt.

Spec. Inv.

Training

Off. Sec'y

SEE REVERSE  
SIDE FOR  
COMMUNICATION  
ACTION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

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b7C

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cc4251

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SEP 20 11 58 AM '88

ICF

SECURITY DIV

FBI

b1

FOI/PA # 258,908

RECEIVED

CRIMINAL ACT. #

INVESTIGATIVE # 12356

DATE 10/16/85

INITIALS

9/14/85 JEL/ALP/ky

SEP 20 11 20 AM '88

DMS

F.B.I.  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HE TALKED TO SUBJECT [ ] CONCERNING THE LEGALITY OF WHAT THEY WERE DOING AND [ ] ASSURED HIM THAT HE HAD TALKED TO ATTORNEYS AND THAT AS LONG AS THEY DID NOT ATTEMPT TO EXPORT WEAPONS OR MUNITIONS, THEY WERE WITHIN THE LAW. [ ] WAS SYMPATHETIC TO THE "FREEDOM FIGHTERS" IN NICARAGUA AND BEGAN ACCUMULATING MATERIALS TO BE SENT TO THEM. HE COLLECTED OLD BOOTS, FATIGUES, CANTEENS, ETC., MOSTLY FROM LOCAL MEMPHIS YARD SALES AND FROM FRIENDS. BY LATE MAY, HE HAD COLLECTED A PICKUP TRUCK LOAD OF THESE ITEMS WHICH HE VALUED AT \$2,500.00 BUT FOR WHICH HE HAD ONLY PAID \$300.00. HE TURNED THESE ITEMS OVER TO [ ] AND [ ] SENT THEM TO HONDURAS.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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DURING JUNE AND JULY, HE HAD SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH [ ] AND BECAUSE OF THE DISTANCE OF TRAVEL INVOLVED AND WITH [ ] ENCOURAGEMENT, HE STARTED HIS CMA IN MEMPHIS. HE BECAME INCREASINGLY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH [ ] "MILITARY APPROACH" AND DECIDED THAT [ ] ORGANIZATION WOULD EMPHASIZE ASSISTANCE TO THE REFUGEES FROM THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN NICARAGUA. ACCORDINGLY, [ ] [ ] CRMA (CIVILIAN REFUGEE MILITARY ASSISTANCE).

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ON AUG. 1, 1984, CRMA HAD THEIR FIRST PUBLIC MEETING AT THE VFW POST IN MEMPHIS. THE SPEAKER FOR THIS MEETING WAS MARIO CALERO,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AN FDN REPRESENTATIVE FROM NEW ORLEANS.

A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE AUG. 1 MEETING, [REDACTED] CALLED HIM AND ASKED IF THE CRMA HAD ANY HELICOPTER-PILOTS. [REDACTED] SAID THAT THE FDN HAD AN HELICOPTER BUT THEIR PILOTS WERE POORLY TRAINED AND WERE UNABLE TO LAND IN SMALL OPENINGS IN THE JUNGLE. ACCORDINGLY, THEY WERE UNABLE TO USE THEIR HELICOPTER TO MEDIVAC WOUNDED SOLDIERS OUT OF THE JUNGLE.

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[REDACTED] TALKED TO POWELL, ABOUT TRAINING FDN HELICOPTER PILOTS AND ALSO WITH [REDACTED] CONCERNING [REDACTED].

ON AUG 28, [REDACTED] DEPARTED MEMPHIS ENROUTE TO HONDURAS VIA NEW ORLEANS. [REDACTED] FLEW A SMALL CESSNA AIRPLANE TO NEW ORLEANS AND [REDACTED] FLEW BY COMMERCIAL AIRLINES TO NEW ORLEANS.

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[REDACTED] HEARD NOTHING UNTIL SEPT. 2, WHEN A NEWS BROADCAST MENTIONED THAT A HELICOPTER HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN IN NICARAGUA AND TWO AMERICANS WERE KILLED. ON SEPT. 3, [REDACTED] RETURNED TO MEMPHIS AND TOLD HIM THAT THE TWO DEAD AMERICANS WERE POWELL AND DANA PARKER FROM HUNTSVILLE.

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SHORTLY AFTER THIS INCIDENT, HE SEVERED ALL TIES WITH THE CRMA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



AND [REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED], MISSISSIPPI. [REDACTED]

WAS FORMERLY THE SPOKESMAN [REDACTED]

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b7C

[REDACTED] DURING THE PAST SUMMER, THE CRMA HELD WEEKLY MEETINGS AT THE VFW AND USUALLY THERE WERE 15 TO 20 IN ATTENDANCE. HE ESTIMATES THAT THE CRMA HAS ABOUT 100 "GOOD SUPPORTERS" BUT THAT NO RECORDS WERE KEPT AND THE CRMA HAS NO BANK ACCOUNT.

HE DENIED THAT ANYONE IN CRMA WAS PAID MONEY FOR THEIR EFFORTS AND THAT HE, HIMSELF, SPENT \$600.00 TO \$700.00 OUT OF HIS OWN POCKET. HE NEVER RECEIVED ANY SUPPORT FROM ANY U.S. GOVT. AGENCIES

[REDACTED] TO HIS KNOWLEDGE HE HAS NEVER HAD ANY CONTACT WITH [REDACTED]

b2

[REDACTED] IS DESCRIBED AS A WHITE MALE, BORN [REDACTED], IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, RESIDENCE [REDACTED]

TENNESSEE, TEL NO. [REDACTED] EMPLOYMENT: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] TENNESSEE,

PRESENTLY ON [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ALABAMA.

ADMINISTRATIVE: IF NOT ALL READY DONE, THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE FIVE 2-28 UNCLAS E F T O

SET FORTH A LEAD FOR CAPTAIN: [REDACTED], U.S. ARMY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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[REDACTED], U.S. EMBASSY, TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS TO BE INTERVIEWED.

FOR THE FURTHER INFO. OF FBIHQ, DURING THE REGIONAL FCI CONFERENCE  
IN MIAMI, FLA., SEPT. 11 - 12, 1984. [REDACTED]

(C)

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BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**Records/Operations Sections**

9-21, 1984

- ☐ Name Searching Unit, 4543, TL# 115 b2  
☒ ~~Service~~ Unit, 4654, TL# 225 b6  
☐ Special File Room, 5991, TL# 122 b7C  
☐ Forward to File Review 5447, TL# 143  
☐ Attention    
☒ Return to 4247 242    
Supervisor, Room, TL#, Ext.

**Type of Search Requested:** (Check One)

- ☒ Restricted Search (Active Index - 5 & 20)  
☐ Restricted Search (Active & Inactive Index - 5 & 30)  
☐ Unrestricted (Active & Inactive Index)

**Special Instructions:** (Check One)

- ☒ All References (Security & Criminal)  
☐ Security Search  
☐ Criminal Search  
☐ Main \_\_\_\_\_ References Only  
☐ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)  
☐ Buildup ☐ Variations  
☐ Restricted to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_ b6  
b7C

Subject    
 Birthdate & Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Localities \_\_\_\_\_

R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date 9/21 Searcher \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prod. \_\_\_\_\_ Initials jm

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

NFE 1- 24235  
 42-431953  
NFE 100 - 207674  
 1 62-5-46412 X  
 66-2058-52-977

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED Civil discovery  
 DATE 10/16/15 BY 9145  

# 258,908 SP5 cd/DMS  
 3124180 OTN

Hold for Pick up

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**Records/Operations Sections**

9-21, 1984

- ☐ Name Searching Unit, 4543, TL# 115 b2  
☒ Service Unit, 4654, TL# 225 b6  
☐ Special File Room, 5991, TL# 122 b7C  
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 Supervisor, Room, TL#, Ext.

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- ☒ Restricted Search (Active Index - 5 & 20)  
☐ Restricted Search (Active & Inactive Index - 5 & 30)  
☐ Unrestricted (Active & Inactive Index)

**Special Instructions:** (Check One)

- ☒ All References (Security & Criminal)  
☐ Security Search  
☐ Criminal Search  
☐ Main \_\_\_\_\_ References Only  
☐ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)  
☐ Buildup ☐ Variations b6  
☐ Restricted to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_ b7C

Subject    
 Birthdate & Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Localities \_\_\_\_\_

R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date 9/21 Searcher \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prod. \_\_\_\_\_ Initials gr

	FILE NUMBER	SERIAL
<del>NT</del>	7-15940	
<del>NT</del>	44-75706	
	46-71926	
	58-2053	
	77-48174	
	88-77561	
	95-200480	
<del>NT</del>	157-26543	
	161-11425	
	173-10083	
	188-196-4835	

*Appox 40 Rec Refs. not listed  
 please return if they are needed*

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED**

**HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED** Civil discovery

DATE 10/16/88 BY 9146  

# 258,908 312488

SP5619DM5

FBI/DOJ

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102

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

DATE: 07-19-2007

CLASSIFIED BY 60324 AUC BAW/STP/CLS

REASON: 1.4 (C)

DECLASSIFY ON: 07-19-2032

CLASSIFICATION PER OGA LETTER

DATED 03-22-2008

PAGE 1 OF 5  
DATE

OCTOBER 4, 1984

CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED EFTO

~~SECRET~~

PRIORITY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

#STPP#461423 H0102 2782116TYETP 041910Z OCT 84

FM DIRECTOR FBI

b2

TO

ATTN: DDO

ATTN: OFFICE OF SECURITY

BT

UNCLAS EFTO

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

AKA: NEUTRALITY MATTERS-EL SALVADOR

REFERENCE IS MADE TO [REDACTED] BUREAU OF ALCOHOL

TOBACCO AND FIREARMS, U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE, AND DEPARTMENT

OF JUSTICE {DOJ}, DATED SEPTEMBER 10, 1984

FBI HEADQUARTERS APPRECIATES THE PROMPT RESPONSE TO OUR

INITIAL NAME-TRACE REQUEST. THE DOJ, CRIMINAL DIVISION HAS

AUTHORIZED ADDITIONAL FBI INVESTIGATION CONCERNING SUBJECT,

{THE CIVILIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE {CMA}}, AND ASSOCI-

ATES, TO DETERMINE IF A VIOLATION OF NEUTRALITY STATUTES OR

OTHER CRIMINAL LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES PRESENTLY EXISTS.

DO NOT TYPE MESSAGE BELOW THIS LINE

APPROVED BY

DRAFTED BY

DATE

ROOM

TELE EXT.

JJN:BAR {2}

10/4/84

4257

SEE NOTE PAGE SIX

1 - MR. [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

V-133

~~SECRET~~FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS

OCT 04 1984

DO NOT FILE WITHOUT COMMUNICATIONS STAMP

53 JAN 2 1985

Classified by SP5C11m/s

Declassify on: OADR

FOI/PA #

APPEAL #

CIVIL ACT. #

E.O. # 12,356

DATE 3/24/88 INITIALS oms

(S-1) Appropriate Agency

DO NOT TYPE PAST THIS LINE

b2  
b6  
b7C

b3

b6  
b7C

b2

Field File No.

OO and File No.

Date Received

From

*BH-2-28-1A**9-12-84*b6  
b7C

(Address of Contributor)

By

To Be Returned ☐ Yes☐ No☐ Yes☐ NoReceipt Given ☐ Yes☐ NoGrand Jury Material - Disseminate  
Only Pursuant to Rules 6(e),  
Federal Rules of Criminal  
ProcedureDescription: ☐ Original notes re interview of

*Original letter with  
envelope - postmarked  
9-12-84 - to*

b6  
b7CALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED *Civil Discovery*  
DATE 3/24/88 BY SP5cl/oms

[redacted]

I am a man, like your-self. I've had operations, with the teams that I'm currently a member of, in side central America. I'm also one of

also  
Instructor →

[redacted] I have access to training grounds, aircraft, men, weapons. I currently have a large quantity of weapons for sale

200 - M-1, & M-2s

180 - AK-47s

120 - M-15s

All Automatics

with 3-full clips.

Another large quantity of weapons for sale in Oct.

Other larger weapons are for sale to.

M-60, M-79, LAWs, Grenades.

I have a pass-port.

[redacted] which are very good at what they do. Work is slow right now. I'd like to get in with a good group. I can send a resume on request.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/22/88 BY SP5CJL/MS

[redacted]

I have contacts in central America & the South-east Asia. I have a pass-port. Other teams members are ready to move. I'm going to be hiring some men in Tennessee & Kentucky.

[redacted]

[redacted]



If some of your members could  
use some work in that area. I've  
been keeping taps on [redacted] C.M.A.  
through clippings out of magazines  
& newspapers. Good-luck.

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b7C

I have access to good pilot with  
aircraft options. Also Boat contacts.  
If you can't use me, pass my name  
on. Keep my name handy. I'd like  
to get back to central America again.  
The weapons for sale are currently hid in  
Hondurours. Easy Access.

Thank-you

Field File No.

OO and File No.

Date Received

From

*BAH-2-28-1A*  
*9-17-84*

b6

b7C

(Address of Contributor)

By

[Redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes☐ No☐ Yes☐ NoReceipt Given ☐ Yes☐ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate  
Only Pursuant to Rules 6(e),  
Federal Rules of Criminal  
Procedure

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED *Civil Discovery*  
DATE 3/24/88 BY SP5 cldms

*Original letter to*  
*from*

b6  
b7C

[Redacted]

*- Postmarked 9-17-84*

INVOLVED PERSON OR PERSONS

THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS AND SINCERE  
Inquiry DO NOT DISREGARD THIS LETTER.

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THERE ARE [REDACTED] HERE IN THE

[REDACTED] WHO HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING AN  
ARTICLE WE SAW IN NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE, C.M.A., [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] AL.

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[REDACTED]  
CAN BE ARRANGED THEN YOU CAN NAME YOUR PRICE, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] IS AN EXPERIENCED COMBAT HELICOPTER  
PILOT AND FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW THE OPERATION  
COULD GO OVER VERY SMOOTHLY IF CARRIED OUT  
PROPERLY.

b6  
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IF MONEY ISN'T A MOTIVATING FACTOR THEN A ARMED  
COBRA CAN BE ARRANGED; ASSASSINATIONS; YOU NAME  
IT AND A WORKABLE BLUE PRINT WILL BE DRAWN UP  
PLUS MORE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PICK  
UP [REDACTED] AWAITING YOUR RESPONSE.

b6  
b7C

Ready to see it said parties

ENCLOSURES

To: SAC, INDIANAPOLIS File No.: .....

From: SAC, Birmingham File No. 2-28

Subject: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AKA, ET AL;

Description of enclosures: (1) ~~copy~~

orig. letter & envelope  
dated 9-12-84; (1)

ORIGINAL letter &  
envelope dated 9-17-84

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED *Encl. Discarded*  
DATE 3/24/88 BY SP5C/LDMJ

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ AIRTEL

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 10/12/84

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
 FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (2-28) (P)

"CHANGE D":

aka,

NEUTRALITY MATTER-EL SALVADOR,  
 HONDURAS, NICARAGUA;  
 OO: BH

Title marked "Changed" to add countries of Honduras and Nicaragua. Title previously carried as: [redacted] aka, [redacted] NEUTRALITY MATTER-EL SALVADOR; OO: BH".

Re BH airtel to Bureau 5/2/84, and Bureau teletype to BH, 9/14/84.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the following items:

1. One copy undated letter with envelope, postmarked 9/12/84;
2. One copy undated letter with envelope, postmarked 9/17/84.

Enclosed for IP are the originals of enclosed letters and envelopes, received by subject and furnished to FBI by same.

2-Bureau (Encls. 4)  
 2-Indianapolis (Encls. 4)  
 2-Birmingham  
 GLH:jgr  
 (6)

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

12 OCT 19 1984

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Number) (Time)

307,697

★ U.S. Government Printing Office: 1984-431-613/649

3-27-91 SP8 BJB  
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 3/24/88 BY SP5C11 oms

JUN 2 1985

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 b7C

For info. IP Div., BH initiated a Neutrality investigation on subject and the CIVILIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE (CMA) in 11/83. [ ] traveled to El Salvador in 10/83 by himself and stayed for sixteen days. During his stay there, he offered military equipment, medical supplies and "military trainers" for the El Salvadorian Army. After his return, [ ] shipped between fifteen and twenty boxes, containing uniforms, field equipment and first aid supplies to El Salvador.

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On 1/9/84, [ ] accompanied by [ ] CMA associates, traveled to Honduras and stayed until 1/24/84. While there, the group visited a field hospital of the FORCES OF A DEMOCRATIC NICARAGUA (FDN). On this trip, [ ] traveled to an FDN base camp and acknowledged that he fired some shots "into the bush" while on patrol with FDN troops, but stated he never saw anyone in the bush and did not feel he hit anyone.

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On 8/23/84, six members of the CMA, accompanied by [ ] left for Honduras. This group took supplies with them for FDN troops and provided military training for FDN troops at their base camps.

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On 9/1/84, CMA members DANA PARKER, JR. and JIM POWELL were in a helicopter which was shot down in Nicaragua near a Sandinista training base. Both men were killed, along with an FDN Pilot.

This incident has been widely publicized and as a result of this publicity, [ ] has received correspondence from all over the U.S., mainly from individuals who express an interest in joining the CMA.

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On 9/27/84, [ ] telephonically contacted the Huntsville Resident Agency and advised [ ] [ ] are being provided to IP Div. for info. Investigation in this matter being left to the discretion of IP.

NOO 003 265 2057Z

RR HQ BH ME MM MO

DE NO

R 21 1909Z SEP 84

RECEIVED  
TELETYPE UNIT

21 SEP 84 21 09Z

FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION

Exec AD-Adm.	
Exec AD-Inv.	
Exec AD-LES	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	
Crim. Inv.	
Ident.	
Inspection	
Intell.	
Laboratory	
Legal Coun.	
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.	
Rec. Mgmt.	
Tech. Serv.	
Training	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

FM NEW ORLEANS (2-181) (P)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

BIRMINGHAM (2-28) ROUTINE

MEMPHIS ROUTINE

MIAMI ROUTINE

MOBILE ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

[REDACTED] AKA; NEUTRALITY MATTER - EL SALVADOR. OO: [REDACTED]

BIRMINGHAM.

RE BIRMINGHAM TELETYPES DATED SEPTEMBER 11 AND 12, 1984.

ON SEPTEMBER 19, 1984 [REDACTED] WAS INTERVIEWED AT HIS

RESIDENCE, [REDACTED] PRESENT AT THAT

INTERVIEW WAS U. S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION CONFIRMED EVENTS

2 OCT 10 1984

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED *Conf. Disc.*  
DATE 3/24/88 BY SP8 PLS/BWY

3/25/91 SP8 PLS/BWY  
307,697

DOS/ISS  
0-73 to USC/Off. of Inv.  
BATF 9-24-84  
53 DEC 4 1984

PAGE TWO NO 2-181 UNCLAS

WHICH HAD OCCURRED IN NEW ORLEANS BEGINNING AUGUST 23, 1984, UNTIL THE DOWNING OF THE FDN HELICOPTER ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1984.

[ ] STATED ALL CMA AND/OR CRMA MEMBERS WHO WERE ASSISTING THE FDN WERE DOING SO IN A NONCOMBATANT ROLE AND RECEIVED ABSOLUTELY NO PAYMENT FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE. AS A MATTER OF FACT, U. S. FUNDS WERE CUT OFF IN MAY, 1984; THEREFORE, THE FDN WAS/IS IN NO POSITION TO PAY ANY "MERCENARIES." THESE INDIVIDUALS, IN FACT, CONTRIBUTED THEIR OWN MONEY TO THE CAUSE. THE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES THE CMA/CRMA HAVE PROVIDED INCLUDED MEDICAL SUPPLIES, MEDICINES, CIVILIAN CLOTHING, RAIN GEAR, SHOES, AND PERSONAL ITEMS THAT HAD BEEN DONATED BY CONCERNED INDIVIDUALS IN THE U. S.

AT NO TIME WERE ANY WEAPONS PURCHASED FOR THE FDN IN THE U. S., NOR WERE ANY SHIPPED FROM THE U. S. TO THE REBELS WHO ARE FIGHTING THE SANDINISTAS.

THE RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN THE FDN AND THE CMA/CRMA WAS NOT INITIATED BY THE FDN. THE INVOLVEMENT OF THESE GROUPS IN THE CONFLICT IN CENTRAL AMERICA ORIGINATED WITH THOSE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED WITH THE POSSIBLE TAKEOVER OF COMMUNIST INSURGENTS IN EL SALVADOR AS WELL AS NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS. AS [ ] UNDERSTANDS, [ ] INITIALLY BECAME INVOLVED WHEN HE FIRST TRAVELED TO,

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PAGE THREE NO 2-181 UNCLAS

EL SALVADOR OFFERING HIS SERVICES TO THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT. APPARENTLY, HE WAS UNSUCCESSFUL AND THEN PROCEEDED TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN TEGUCIGALPA WHERE HE WAS PLACED IN CONTACT WITH THE FDN. THROUGH THE FDN IN HONDURAS, [REDACTED] WAS EVENTUALLY PLACED IN CONTACT WITH [REDACTED] IN THE U. S. ON THE 29TH OR 30TH OF JULY, 1984, [REDACTED] [REDACTED], WHO PAID FOR HIS HOTEL AND EXPENSES. AT THAT TIME THE MATTER OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES WAS DISCUSSED AS WELL AS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR SHIPMENT THROUGH NEW ORLEANS.

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THE INTERVIEWING AGENTS WERE THEN TAKEN TO TWO RENTED MINI-STORAGE UNITS, WHICH CONTAINED CIVILIAN CLOTHING, SHOES, RAIN GEAR, MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND MEDICINES, AND VARIOUS OTHER ITEMS DONATED BY INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES. [REDACTED] STATED THAT APPROXIMATELY FOUR OR FIVE SHIPMENTS OF SUCH ITEMS HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE TO HONDURAS. THESE SHIPMENTS WERE MADE IN VERY SMALL LOTS AND ACCOMPANIED INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE TRAVELING TO HONDURAS ON COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS. HE STATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SHIP THESE REMAINING GOODS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT HAS HAD DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING TOGETHER A SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF

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PAGE FOUR NO 2-181 UNCLAS

MATERIALS TO JUSTIFY THE EXPENSE OF SUCH A SHIPMENT. A NUMBER OF  
CARTONS AT THESE STORAGE UNITS WERE RANDOMLY SEARCHED WITH THE  
PERMISSION OF [REDACTED] AND FOUND TO CONTAIN NO WEAPONS NOR MILITARY  
HARDWARE WHICH MIGHT BE RESTRICTED FOR SHIPMENT. [REDACTED] OFFERED  
FULL COOPERATION AND STATED THAT NEITHER HE NOR ANY OF [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] WOULD WILLFULLY VIOLATE U. S.  
LAWS.

LAM FOLLOWS.

BT

b6  
b7C

DATE: 07-19-2007

CLASSIFIED BY 60324 AUC BAW/STP/C

REASON: 1.4 (C)

DECLASSIFY ON: 07-19-2032

CLASSIFICATION PER OGA LETTER

DATED 03/10/84 TRANSMIT VIA:

- ☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ AIRTEL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FBI

PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 10/3/84

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (2-28) (P)

ET AL;

NEUTRALITY MATTER-  
EL SALVADOR;  
OO: BH

Classified by SP5CJ/BWG  
Declassify on: OADR  
3-27-91 307,697

Re BH airtels to Director, 1/3/84 and 5/2/84;  
and Director teletype to BH, 9/14/84.

Enclosed for the Bureau are (5) copies of an LHM  
dated and captioned as above, containing info. concerning  
the recent deaths of two members of the CIVILIAN MILITARY  
ASSISTANCE (CMA), in Nicaragua.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

BH has conducted all logical investigation in  
this matter and will await prosecutive opinion from DOJ.

2-Bureau ( Encls.5)  
2-Birmingham  
GLH:jgr  
(4)

3/24/88  
Classified by SP5CJ/OMS  
Declassify on: OADR

2-2681-45  
10 OCT 15 1984

FOI/PA #  
APPEAL #  
CIVIL ACT. #  
E.O. # 12356  
DATE 3/24/88 INITIALS OMS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

1\*

Approved:

Transmitted

Per

(Number)

(Time)

53 DEC 10 1984

~~SECRET~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

~~SECRET~~

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

1400 - 2121 Building  
Birmingham, Alabama 35203  
October 2, 1984

DECLASSIFIED BY SP8BJL/amy  
ON 3-27-91

307,697

[REDACTED]

ALSO KNOWN AS,

[REDACTED]

NEUTRALITY MATTER-  
EL SALVADOR

b6  
b7C

On November 29, 1983, T-1 advised that [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Alabama and a former Marine,  
was in the process of trying to organize military assistance  
to the government of El Salvador through an organization he  
called the Civilian Military Assistance (CMA) program. T-1  
stated [REDACTED] had a meeting in Huntsville, Alabama on November 8,  
1983, at a restaurant (name unknown), where he tried to  
interest several individuals in the Huntsville, Alabama area  
in joining [REDACTED] *ay*

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b2

T-1 advised that [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] had contacted him on several occasions  
concerning [REDACTED] activities. T-1 advised [REDACTED] wanted to  
know if the activities of [REDACTED] were, in any way, supported  
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] in no way,  
backing the subject, or his activities at the present time. [REDACTED] *ay*

On April 10, 1984, [REDACTED] was interviewed  
at his residence, [REDACTED] Alabama.  
He was provided with several sections from the United States

b6  
b7C

FOI/PA #  
APPEAR #  
CIVILIAN # *Senate Select Committee on Int. Relations*  
E.O. # *12356*  
DATE *3/24/88* INITIALS *OW*

*Appropriate Agency*

b2

This document contains neither  
recommendations nor conclusions of  
the FBI. It is the property of  
the FBI and is loaned to your agency;  
it and its contents are not to be  
distributed outside your agency.

*3/24/88*  
Classified by *SP5CJL/amy*  
Declassify on: *OADR* *encl/USCIB*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.



~~SECRET~~

*2-5081-10*  
~~DECLASSIFIED~~

~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED] b6  
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Code, dealing with the Neutrality Act. [REDACTED] read these statutes, stated he understood them, but advised that in his own mind, he did not feel he or the CMA was violating any of these federal statutes.

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[REDACTED] stated that in October, 1983, he went to El Salvador by himself. He stated this was a factfinding mission to see whether or not the country of El Salvador needed or wanted his organization's assistance. [REDACTED] stayed in El Salvador for sixteen days during this trip. [REDACTED] advised that upon his return to the United States, he has sent between fifteen and twenty boxes of uniforms, field equipment and first aid materials to the El Salvadoran forces. He estimated the approximate value of these items to be between \$3,000 and \$4,000.00.

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[REDACTED] traveled to Honduras on January 9, 1984, accompanied by [REDACTED] associates in the CMA (who [REDACTED] did not name). While in Honduras, [REDACTED] and his associates observed a field hospital of the Forces of a Democratic Nicaragua (FDN). [REDACTED] stated that on this trip, he and his group traveled to an FDN camp and on one occasion, while he was at this base camp, he was out on patrol with FDN personnel and when he saw other members of the FDN group fire into the brush, he fired his weapon into the brush also. [REDACTED] stated he never saw anyone in the brush and did not feel there was any enemy there, but that the FDN was doing the shooting for his benefit to make an effort to impress him.

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[REDACTED] indicated the CMA is in the process of collecting more equipment and supplies and that, he planned to send approximately fifteen per cent of this equipment to El Salvador and eighty-five per cent of the equipment to the government of Honduras.

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[REDACTED] indicated that approximately ninety-five per cent of the financial backing of the CMA has been from [REDACTED]. He advised the other five per cent has come from donations and stated they made some money from the sale of tee-shirts, advertising the CMA.

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~~SECRET~~

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[redacted]  
[redacted] indicated the CMA is a completely volunteer group and they do not take any dues and do not pay any salaries to members.

On September 1, 1984, a helicopter, containing CMA members Dana Parker, Jr. and Jim Powell and a Nicaraguan pilot (known only as "Pozo") was shot down near a Sandinista training base in Nicaragua. All three occupants of this helicopter were killed.

~~SECRET~~

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~SECRET~~

1

Date of transcription 9/19/84

[redacted] also known as, [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted]. At the outset of the interview, [redacted] who is aware of the identity of SA [redacted] was advised the interview concerned recent activities of the CIVILIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE (CMA) group, of which [redacted] stated the CMA has continued to exist and to, in fact, grow, since he was last contacted by SA [redacted] (April 10, 1984). He stated the CMA had an open house meeting sometime toward the end of April, 1984, at which time, ALPHONSO CALLEJAS, who is the Director of the Miami, Florida branch of the FORCES OF A DEMOCRATIC NICARAUGA (FDN), was the guest speaker. [redacted] advised that approximately twenty-five individuals attended this meeting.

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[redacted] stated as a result of the above-mentioned meeting, a new chapter was formed in Memphis, Tennessee. He stated this chapter was known as the CIVILIAN REFUGEE MILITARY ASSISTANCE (CRMA) organization. He advised the head of the CRMA in Memphis [redacted].

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[redacted] advised he and some of the CMA members have gone to Memphis, Tennessee and tried to assist [redacted] in getting his organization "off the ground" and have been successful in doing this. He advised they had an open house meeting at a VFW Club (Post not recalled) in Memphis in August, 1984, and that approximately 60 to 65 people showed up for that meeting. He stated that MARIO CALERO was the guest speaker for this meeting. [redacted] stated that CALERO, [redacted] is associated with the FDN movement and he is a native Nicaraguan. [redacted] stated he does not know how long CALERO has resided in the United States, but he is of the opinion that it is approximately twenty years and that CALERO has told him that he previously served in the UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS. [redacted] advised he does not have any knowledge as to whether or not CALERO is a United States citizen.

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Investigation on 9/11/84 at [redacted] File # BH 2-28  
by SA [redacted]  
SA [redacted] GLH:jgr Date dictated 9/13/84

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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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~~SECRET~~

Continuation of interview of [redacted]

Page 2

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[redacted] advised the CMA presently has between 200 and 300 members. He stated this number includes people who have helped obtain equipment and supplies, as well as active members, who are capable of assisting in the training of combat troops.

[redacted] advised he estimates the CMA has shipped between \$60,000 and \$70,000 worth of equipment and supplies to Central America since it was organized. He stated he also estimates the shipments they have made to Central America weighed between four and five tons. He advised this includes shipments to El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. These shipments included clothing (military and civilian), boots, medical supplies, web gear, field equipment, c-rations, belts and various recreational items.

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[redacted] advised that on August 23, 1984, he drove his van to New Orleans, Louisiana and on this trip, was accompanied by [redacted]

[redacted]. He advised they had, in his van, a load of supplies which they intended to ship to Honduras when they arrived in New Orleans. He advised they were met in New Orleans by [redacted] who drove a truckload of supplies from Memphis, Tennessee, [redacted] who flew in from Florida [redacted] who flew to New Orleans from Memphis by commercial airline.

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[redacted] stated upon their arrival in New Orleans, they drove to [redacted] residence, [redacted] New Orleans, Louisiana. He stated after staying there for a short period of time, they drove to a warehouse which stores goods for the FDN. He stated he has been to one other warehouse in the New Orleans area which also stores goods for the FDN, making a total of two separate warehouses he is aware of which store goods in the New Orleans area.

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[redacted] advised he is not aware of the addresses of either of these warehouses. After stopping at the warehouse for a short period of time, they went to the MOISANT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, New Orleans and shipped their supplies by AIR TACA to Honduras. [redacted] stated most of the shipment was loaded in cabbage bags and had no labels on it, but after [redacted] went into the Freight Office for a few moments and returned, the porters of the terminal took the bags with just [redacted] name on them and no further address.

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~~SECRET~~

Continuation of interview of [redacted]

Page 3

After loading these supplies, [redacted] PARKER, [redacted] and POWELL thereafter left for Honduras. [redacted] down and the rest flew by commercial airline.

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[redacted] advised the six members who traveled to Honduras were selected because of their expertise in various areas of combat training, which included helicopter flight instruction. [redacted] advised he did not go, because his area of expertise is small arms instruction and this was not a priority training area for FDN troops, according to [redacted].

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[redacted] advised that the areas of expertise of the individuals who went on this trip were as follows:

[redacted]

[redacted];

JIM POWELL - Helicopter Pilot and fixed wing Pilot;

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[redacted];

DANA PARKER - jump Master and fixed wing Pilot;

[redacted]

[redacted] advised that the preparations in planning for this trip began either in the last of June or the first of July, 1984. He stated they started planning on a trip to Nicaragua after [redacted] returned from a trip there and told [redacted] organization of the needs they had in the fight in Nicaragua.

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[redacted] advised he met [redacted] in the last of May, 1984. He stated he was given [redacted] name and telephone number by [redacted] who is [redacted] [redacted], Florida.

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[redacted] advised that sometime around the middle of May, 1984, he [redacted] called [redacted] and told him, "We've got supplies, but can't afford to send them". [redacted] stated shortly after this telephone call, he received a telephone call from [redacted] who asked him if he could bring the supplies to New Orleans to his [redacted] residence.

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Continuation of interview of \_\_\_\_\_

Page 4

\_\_\_\_\_ gave \_\_\_\_\_ an address of \_\_\_\_\_ New Orleans, Louisiana and a telephone number of \_\_\_\_\_.

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\_\_\_\_\_ advised that \_\_\_\_\_ indicated to the CMA that they needed helicopter Pilot instruction and that they also needed Communications assistance.

\_\_\_\_\_ recalls that as they were finalizing the plans for the trip to Nicaragua, \_\_\_\_\_ told CMA members they did not need to take their own weapons, as there would be plenty available for them for training purposes in Honduras and Nicaragua. \_\_\_\_\_ stated he cannot say for sure whether or not the members of the group who left for Honduras did, in fact, take weapons with them. He stated he did not see any weapons.

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\_\_\_\_\_ stated that finances were never discussed in any of the planning for this operation and that each individual member who went on this trip was aware that he would have to finance his portion of the trip. \_\_\_\_\_ advised the funds available to the CMA were very limited and not of much assistance to the men on this trip. \_\_\_\_\_ stated that as an example of the financial situation of the CMA, there is presently \_\_\_\_\_ in the CMA bank account.

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\_\_\_\_\_ stated the group had planned to return at sometime over Labor Day weekend and that two days prior to their return, some member of the group was supposed to call him \_\_\_\_\_, so he could plan to drive to New Orleans and meet the group at the New Orleans Airport.

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\_\_\_\_\_ advised that on Labor Day, September 3, 1984, he received a telephone call from \_\_\_\_\_ who runs an \_\_\_\_\_ at approximately 10:30 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ first asked \_\_\_\_\_ about some surplus uniforms and then stated, "By the way, did you hear about the helicopter that went down in Nicaragua?". \_\_\_\_\_ told \_\_\_\_\_ he had just heard about a helicopter going down in Nicaragua which supposedly had some Americans aboard.

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\_\_\_\_\_ stated he thereafter called \_\_\_\_\_ Tennessee immediately to ask if \_\_\_\_\_ had heard anything of this in the news media. \_\_\_\_\_ told \_\_\_\_\_ he was just reading the morning Memphis paper and there was an account of this in that paper.

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Continuation of interview of [redacted]

Page 5

[redacted] advised he thereafter called [redacted] residence and was informed by [redacted] that [redacted] would be home that afternoon. [redacted] left his residence immediately and drove to New Orleans, arriving at [redacted] residence at approximately 7:00 p.m. [redacted] then told [redacted] the news about DANA PARKER and JIM POWELL perishing in a helicopter crash in Nicaragua on September 1, 1984.

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[redacted] advised he was told that POWELL, PARKER and a Nicaraguan Pilot had left the camp at sometime around noon on September 1, 1984, and that PARKER had told [redacted] they were having to leave immediately on either a "mercy mission", or an "emergency mission". He was told the noise level near the helicopter was such that [redacted] could not distinguish exactly which of the terms PARKER had used.

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[redacted] further advised he was told the chopper they left in had rocket pods, but they were empty and that it had stretchers attached to the skids. He was told the chopper never returned and the other group members heard that it had been shot down in Nicaraguan territory. [redacted] was then told the group left the base camp where they had been training FDN troops and immediately started their return back to the United States.

[redacted] advised [redacted] organizing the CMA, either in October or November, 1983. [redacted]

He stated [redacted] he told them of the aims of the CMA, so that they [redacted] would be aware of what the CMA was attempting to do and would not interfere with any government plans. [redacted] advised he never received a reply [redacted] and stated further that he has never spoken to [redacted].

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[redacted] was asked for a complete list of CMA members, but stated that when an individual joins the CMA, he tells them he will not reveal their identity, but they are free to do so, if they so desire.

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[redacted] stated the members of the CMA who went to Honduras on this mission were not paid anything by the CMA, or by the FDN.

[redacted] advised he personally owns [redacted] weapons. [redacted]. He stated all of these weapons are registered with the BUREAU OF ALCOHOL,

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~~SECRET~~

Continuation of interview of [redacted]

Page

6

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TOBACCO AND FIREARMS (ATF). He further advised that he owns [redacted] one shotgun and a .45 caliber Rising. He stated he estimates he probably owns 50,000 rounds of ammunition also.

[redacted] stated he has never heard of an individual named [redacted].

[redacted] stated he has no confirmed plans to go back to Honduras or Nicaragua, but stated he plans to go at some point in time, back to Honduras, so that PARKER and POWELL will not have died in vain. [redacted] advised that the only way he would not go back to Honduras would be if he could be shown that it was illegal for him to go and if that was done, he would not attempt to make a return trip to that region.

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[redacted] reiterated the fact that the CMA, as a group, nor he as a person, have never sent any weapons nor ammunition to any country in Central America.

SA [redacted] UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE, was present for a portion of this interview and asked [redacted] several questions dealing primarily with the Munitions Control Act.

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[redacted] thereafter provided a copy of a leaflet put out by the FDN which has a CMA application form on the back. This FDN information form is attached hereto.

~~SECRET~~

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

- ☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ AIRTEL

## PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 11/16/84

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
 CEM/go ATTN: C.I.D., DOMESTIC TERRORISM UNIT

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (2-28) (P)

[redacted] aka,

ET AL;  
 NEUTRALITY MATTER-EL SALVADOR,  
 HONDURAS, NICARAGUA;  
 OO: BH

Re BH airtel to Bureau, 10/3/84.

Enclosed for CG Div. are (2) copies of an LHM dated 10/2/84, and captioned as above, sent to Bureau in re airtel.

For info. of the Bureau and CG, [redacted] appeared

[redacted] advised the CMA membership is presently between 4,000 and 5,000 men and they could call on all of their members to go to Central America on short notice, if the need arose.

Subject stated the CMA is presently conducting a membership drive in Illinois, which will be headquartered in Chicago.

[redacted] indicated that CMA membership has increased dramatically since two of their members were killed in Nicaragua on 9/1/84.

This info., as well as that contained in enclosed LHM, being furnished CG for info.

- (2) - Bureau  
 2 - Chicago (Encls. 2)  
 2 - Birmingham  
 GLH:jgr  
 (6)

16 NOV 21 1984

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Number) (Time)

☆ U.S. Government Printing Office: 1984-431-613/6249

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED Civil Discovery  
 DATE 3/21/88 BY SP5C10ms

3-27-91 SP8 Bg/bwy

53 DEC 17 1984 CC to Rm 4257

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 b7C

b6  
 b7C

b6  
 b7C

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ Airtel

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☒ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 10/29/84

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (2-181) (RUC)

[REDACTED] aka;

NEUTRALITY MATTER -

EL SALVADOR

OO: BIRMINGHAM

BUFILE: 2-28

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies, for Birmingham two copies, and for Memphis, Miami and Mobile one copy of an LHM captioned as above.

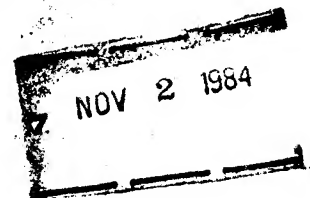
ADMINISTRATIVE:

Asset referred to in enclosed LHM is [REDACTED]

ENCLOSURE

- ② - Bureau (Enc. 5)  
 2 - Birmingham (Enc. 2)  
 1 - Memphis (Enc. 1)  
 1 - Miami (Enc. 1)  
 2 - New Orleans  
 JPS:js  
 (8)

2-2681-47



53 JAN 23 1985

Approved: [Signature]

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

Per

3-27-91 SP8BA/Buy  
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 3/24/88 BY SP5C/L/DMS

307,697

cc to DOJ/ISS 11-2-84  
 2- " destroyed 11-2-84  
 1- " to Room 4257 '1

b6  
b7Cb2  
b7D

FD-36 (Rev. 8-26-82) 10/29/84, mm, 10/18/84



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No. 2 - 181

New Orleans, Louisiana 70113  
October 29, 1984

[REDACTED]  
NEUTRALITY MATTER -  
EL SALVADOR

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A confidential source who has provided reliable information in the past advised the following on September 6, 1984:

JAMES POWELL and DANA PARKER recently killed while flying in a helicopter in Nicaragua were members of a group known as CMA which is affiliated with the Mercenary Association of Dolomite, Alabama.

The Mercenary Association recently received paramilitary training in parachute techniques at Shreveport, Louisiana. POWELL and PARKER did not participate in these training exercises.

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[REDACTED] Source is aware of overtures being made by [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] of CMA to individuals involved in [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] to induce these persons to engage in mercenary type activities in Central America.

The same confidential source advised the following on September 25, 1984:

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



307,697

3-27-91 SP8 BT/bwy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED *Class. Discovery*  
DATE 3/24/88 BY SP5 C110ms

2-2681-47

[redacted]

b6  
b7C

Source provided one copy of a letter on  
stationary of [redacted]

[redacted]  
State of Louisiana. This letter is dated [redacted]

Source also provided one copy of C. R. M. A.,  
Civilian Refugee Military Assistance, Post Office Box  
22294, Memphis, Tennessee, 38122, recruitment card.

Source advised that [redacted] who is

[redacted] Tennessee, and who has a [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted] asking potential  
candidates to fill out cards similar to above recruitment  
card.

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[redacted] date of birth [redacted]

and [redacted]

[redacted] and telephone number [redacted]

is the [redacted]

[redacted] also claims that he is assisting CMA  
in putting together a supply system to transport materials  
to Nicaragua.



C.R.M.A.

Civilian Refugee Military Assistance

P.O. Box 22294 Memphis, Tenn 38122

SUPPORT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Area Code \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Amount of Donation  
Do you want monthly report? \_YES\_ \_NO\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

BHO 004 311 2242

RR HQ IP ME MM MO NO WF

DE BH

R 062242Z NOV 84

FM BIRMINGHAM (2-28) (P)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

INDIANAPOLIS ROUTINE

MEMPHIS ROUTINE

MIAMI ROUTINE

MOBILE ROUTINE

NEW ORLEANS ROUTINE

WFO ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

RECEIVED  
TELETYPE UNIT

6 NOV 84 22 57 Z

FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION

Exec AD-Adm.	
Exec AD-Inv.	
Exec AD-LES	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Servs.	
Crim. Inv.	
Ident.	
Insp.	
Intell.	
Lab.	
Legal Coun.	
Off. Cong. & Public Affs.	
Rec. Mgmt.	
Tech. Servs.	
Training	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

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b7C

ATTN: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION, DOMESTIC TERRORISM UNIT

AKA,

NEUTRALITY

MATTER - EL SALVADOR, HONDURIS, NICARAGUA; OO: BH.

RE BH AIRTEL TO THE BUREAU, DATED OCT. 12, 1984.

ON OCT. 31, 1984, A CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE, WHOSE RELIABILITY IS

UNKNOWN, ADVISED THAT HE WAS CONTACTED RECENTLY BY THE SUBJECT.

THE SOURCE ADVISED THAT [REDACTED] INQUIRY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY

0-73 to USSS; BATE; USC/Off. of Inv.  
DOJ/ISS 11-7-84

53 JAN 23 1985

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/24/88 BY SP5C1/DMS

OF PURCHASING [REDACTED]. THE COST OF THIS MATERIAL WOULD BE BETWEEN \$30,000 TO \$35,000. [REDACTED] INDICATED THAT HE INTENDED TO PAY FOR THIS MATERIAL WITH [REDACTED].

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ON OCT. 31, 1984, U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE, MOBILE, AL, WAS CONTACTED AND PROVIDED WITH ABOVE INFO. REPRESENTATIVES OF CUSTOMS SERVICE THERE ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE SUBJECT AND BELIEVED THAT HE IS FINANCING MANY OF HIS RECENT PURCHASES WITH MONEY HE HAS RECEIVED DURING NUMEROUS TV AND RADIO APPEARANCES THROUGHOUT THE U.S.

ON NOV. 5, 1984, A SECOND CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE ADVISED THAT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] HAS RECEIVED INFO. THAT A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT (PROBABLY THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA) HAS CONTACTED A FOREIGN STUDENT (COUNTRY NOT KNOWN) AT [REDACTED] AND INSTRUCTED HIM TO [REDACTED]

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NO ADDITIONAL INFO. CONCERNING THIS INFO. IS PRESENTLY AVAILABLE.

ON NOV. 6, 1984, THE SUBJECT WAS TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION.

ADMINISTRATIVE

THE FIRST CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE REFERRED TO IN THIS COMMUNICATION IS [REDACTED]

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THE SECOND CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE MENTIONED IN THIS COMMUNICATION

PAGE THREE BH 2-28 UNCLAS

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IS [REDACTED] ALA. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
(ABI), HUNTSVILLE, AL.

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE CONTACTED ON OCT. 31, 1984,

AT MOBILE, AL, IS [REDACTED].

THE BH DIV. IS HOLDING ALL FURTHER INVESTIGATION IN THIS MATTER  
IN ABEYANCE UNTIL A PROSECUTIVE OPINION IS RECEIVED FROM THE DEPT.  
OF JUSTICE.

BT

056

MESSAGE RELAY VIA TELETYPE  
(RESTRICTED USE)

Date: 11-7-84 PRECEDENCE: ☐ IMMEDIATE ☐ PRIORITY ☒ ROUTINE

FM: DIRECTOR, FBI

TO:

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

☐ White House/WH/

☒ Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms/BATF/

☐ Dept. of Energy HQS/DOEHQ/

☐ Dept. of Energy Germantown DIV/DOE/

☐ Dept. of Justice/DOJ/

☐ Dept. of State/DOS/

☐ Dept. of the Army/DA/

☐ Dept. of Treasury/DOT/

☐ Defense Intelligence Agency/DIA/

☐ Director Naval Investigative Service/DIRNAVINSERV/

☐ Drug Enforcement Admin./DEA/

☐ FAA Washington HQ/FAA/

☐ HQ AFOSI Bolling AFBDC/AFOSI/

☐ Nuclear Regulatory Commission/NRC/

☒ U.S. Customs Service/UCS/

☐ U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service/INS/

☒ U.S. Secret Service/USSS/

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

b2

BT

Classification: Unclass

Addressee Internal Distribution

For: USC for Office of Investigation

Subject: 2-2681-50

☒ See Attached

Approved By: OBR/

Originator: \_\_\_\_\_

Tele Ext. \_\_\_\_\_

Room/Div.: 4257/b

b2  
b6  
b7C

DO NOT FILE WITHOUT COMMUNICATIONS STAMP

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED Class Discovery  
DATE 3/24/88 BY SP5C11 DMS

3-27-91 SP8 AWY  
307,697

FBI/DOJ

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ AIRTEL

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 12/20/84

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (2-2681)  
 ATTENTION: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION,  
 DOMESTIC TERRORISM UNIT

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (2-43) (RUC)

SUBJECT:

aka

b6  
 b7C

NEUTRALITY MATTER - EL SALVADOR,  
 HONDURAS, NICARAGUA  
 OO:BIRMINGHAM

Re Memphis teletype to the Bureau and receiving  
 offices, 12/5/84.

NR 8-7-86 mja

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and  
 four copies of an LHM dated and captioned as above.  
 Enclosed for Birmingham are two copies and for each other  
 office one copy of the LHM. Attached to the Bureau,  
 Birmingham, and New Orleans enclosures is a Commercial  
Appeal special report captioned, "Goin' to War."

The enclosed LHM sets forth a series of articles  
 appearing in the Commercial Appeal, the local Memphis,  
 Tennessee, newspaper, during the period of December 4,  
 1984, through December 14, 1984. These articles were  
 written by a staff reporter who traveled to Nicaragua  
 and who reported on a group of Americans training with

6- ENCLOSURE

②-Bureau (Enc. 5) ENCLOSURE ATTACHED  
 2-Birmingham (Enc. 2)  
 1-Indianapolis (Enc. 1)  
 1-Jackson (Enc. 1)  
 1-Jacksonville (Enc. 1)  
 1-Miami (Enc. 1)  
 JRF:jml  
 (12)

1-Mobile (Enc. 1)  
 1-New Orleans (Enc. 1)  
 1-Oklahoma City (Enc. 1)  
 1-Memphis

JAN 2 1985

Approved: WJB/803

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

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1-CC to DOJ/ISS 1-2-85  
 1- "774 Rm 4257 "  
 2- "destroyed "  
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307,697  
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 ★ U.S. Government Printing Office: 1984-431-613/624

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 3/24/88 BY SP5C/LMS

ME 2-43

an elite group of rebels. The reported intention of the group was to enter Nicaragua during early 1985 to destroy strategic military targets to help even the balance of weapons between the rebels and Sandinista forces.

Identified in the articles was the leader of the Americans, identified only as "Colonel FLOCO" from Alabama. Also identified was JIM TURNEY, Collierville, Tennessee; DAVID ORMOND, Corinth, Mississippi; BOB BRADFORD, Tallahassee, Florida; RICHARD THOMPSON, Lawton, Oklahoma; and TOM POSEY, founder of the CMA. Later articles reported the group had been sent back to the United States by the FDN as a result of the Commercial Appeal's articles reporting the rebel camps were in Honduras, which fact had always been denied by Honduras. POSEY was quoted as denying the Americans intended to enter Nicaragua stating they were there to train the rebels to enter Nicaragua on long-range raids.

No further investigation is being conducted at this time by the Memphis Division.



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee  
December 20, 1984

b6  
b7C

RE:

NEUTRALITY MATTER - EL SALVADOR,  
HONDURAS, NICARAGUA

During the period of December 4, 1984, through December 14, 1984, a series of articles and photographs were printed in the Commercial Appeal, the local Memphis, Tennessee, newspaper, by staff reporter WILLIAM THOMAS and photographer RICHARD GARDNER. These articles cover the Nicaraguan guerilla movement and its war with the government of Nicaragua.

The articles reported a small group of Americans were in Honduras to train with an elite guerilla unit of the Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FDN). The articles identified the leader of the American group only as "Colonel FLOCO," from Alabama. Also identified were JIM TURNEY, Collierville, Tennessee; DAVID ORMOND, Corinth, Mississippi; BOB BRADFORD, Tallahassee, Florida; RICHARD THOMPSON, Lawton, Oklahoma; and TOM POSEY, founder of the Civilian Military Assistance (CMA), Decatur, Alabama. The stated objective of the group, as reported by "Colonel FLOCO," was to enter Nicaragua sometime after the first of the year to destroy some strategic military targets to help even the balance of weapons between the rebels and Sandinista forces.

An article appearing in the December 13, 1984, issue quoted TOMMY POSEY, Flint City, Alabama, one of the founders of the organization known as Civilian Military Assistance (CMA), that the group of Americans was sent back to the United States by the FDN because of the articles appearing in the Commercial Appeal. POSEY stated the FDN's reaction stemmed from the disclosure that the rebel organization is based on the Honduran side of the Nicaragua-Honduras border which has always been denied by Honduras.

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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED *Civil Discovm't*  
DATE 3/24/88 BY SP5C/LPms

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3-27391 SP8 *Stacy*  
307,697



POSEY also denied the Americans entered Honduras to prepare for a raid into Nicaragua. POSEY stated the reports from Honduras should have stated the Americans were there to train the rebels to go into Nicaragua on long-range raids.

The following are the articles appearing in the Commercial Appeal:

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE,

Date: 12/14/84 PAGE A6

Edition:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 2-43

Submitting Office:

A messy affair

REGARDLESS of how President Reagan viewed their actions two months ago, the Americans who went to Honduras as private citizens to help fight communism will not go down in the history books along with American volunteers in the Royal Air Force.

The Central American adventure of the Civilian Military Assistance, as it has been chronicled in the pages of The Commercial Appeal, was a messy affair.

Two months ago, in an interview with editors of Scripps-Howard Newspapers, Reagan lauded the CMA's self-appointed "freedom fighters" as following an honored tradition of private American support for just causes.

But now administration spokesmen are saying what Reagan should have said then.

"The CIA doesn't control these guys and can't really keep track of them, so they're a wild card that could cause everyone serious problems," a senior national security official told The New York Times.

THOSE PROBLEMS include: an added burden on U.S. forces, unnecessary domestic controversy added to an issue that is already overcharged with emotion and mired in confusion, mixed signals to the Nicaraguan government and adverse publicity for the anti-Sandinista Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FDN).

The FDN obviously has felt the heat. Its leadership has asked — or perhaps ordered — the CMA contingent to go home.

Reporter William Thomas of The Commercial Appeal, whose series of stories about the CMA focused national attention on the group's plan to participate in guerrilla strikes into Nicaragua, has quoted guerrilla leaders as saying that all they wanted from the United States was the means to do their own fighting, not Americans to fight for or with them. They know this controversy hurts their chances of getting congressional approval of more aid.

The controversy over the CMA and private American involvement

generally in the Nicaraguan guerrilla war reflects overall public confusion about U.S. policy toward Central America.

Many Americans are deeply concerned that the Reagan administration may be planning to commit U.S. troops to that war or to escalate the fighting in some way that could cause a wider conflict throughout Central America. Although the comparison is unjustified, some Americans claim that Nicaragua and El Salvador could entrap U.S. forces and policies just as Vietnam did.

The administration has explained its Nicaragua policy specifically and in the broader context of regional U.S. interests and strategies. But, if public opinion is a fair guide, the explanations have not been clear or detailed enough.

The presence of U.S. troops and support facilities in Honduras does not mean that the administration has any intention of launching an attack on Nicaragua or participating on the ground in the Salvadoran fighting. That presence represents, rather, the kind of military pressure that has to go hand in hand with diplomacy in the power politics dictated by today's international rivalries. Pressure and persuasion are necessary elements of overall policy, and neither works effectively without the other in relations with adversaries. To eliminate proper pressure, as some critics of the administration would do, would be to invite if not to accept defeat.

THE GOALS AND methods of the administration must be clear if they are to receive wide public and congressional support. When the President praised free-wheeling private intervention in a foreign conflict, without apparently being aware of the possible consequences of that intervention, he added to the confusion.

And now the Nicaraguan guerrillas have had to do what the administration could not or did not do — persuade the private Americans to leave. That's not a credible way to manage foreign policy.

(If page, name of  
paper, city and state.)

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE,

Date: 12/14/84 PAGE A1

Edition:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 2-43

Submitting Office:

War left behind,  
but not in spirit

By MICHAEL KELLEY \_\_\_\_\_  
and MARY DEIBEL

All American supporters of a Nicaraguan guerrilla movement are back in the United States now, a Collierville resident involved in the effort said yesterday.

But, Jim Turney, a member of Civilian Military Assistance, said they were eager to return to the rebel camp near the Honduras-Nicaragua border, where they have been training "freedom fighters" for their war against the Nicaraguan Sandinista government.

"As soon as everybody gets settled back in and reacclimated we'll meet and go into what our next moves will be," Turney said.

Meanwhile, in Washington, the State Department's roving ambassador for Latin America says he is unaware of any pressure Honduras may have put on the U.S. citizens to return home.

Ambassador Otto Reich, coordinator of public diplomacy for Latin America and the Caribbean, echoed the statements of Honduran officials in Washington and in its capital of Tegucigalpa about members of the Ala-

~~base-based paramilitary group,~~  
returning home.

Officials with the Ministry of the Presidency, the Honduran armed forces, immigration and Honduras' embassy in Washington all said they knew of no official efforts to get CMA volunteers to leave.

Tom Posey, a founder of the group, told The Commercial Appeal Wednesday that he and other U.S. civilians were sent home by the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) after the newspaper reported that the rebels' base camps are on the Honduran side of the border.

"Honduras has always claimed (the rebels) are not in their country," Posey said on returning to the United States.

Turney returned home Wednesday night after a flight from Tegucigalpa. He said about a dozen Americans involved in the training and supply of anti-Sandinista rebels have returned from Honduras in the last few days.

"All the Americans were disappointed they were not able to fulfill their training missions," Turney said. "But we fully intend to continue our support for the FDN and the freedom fighters in Nicaragua. As soon as we're allowed to, naturally we're going to go back."

Turney was among several Americans interviewed by a reporter for The Commercial Appeal in November at a Nicaraguan Democratic Force camp near the Honduras-Nicaragua border.

The interviews resulted in a report by The Commercial Appeal, published Dec. 4, that the Americans, led by an Alabama resident who goes by the name of 'Colonel Flaco' in Central America, were preparing for a commando raid into Nicaragua.

That story, which placed the camp on the Honduras side of the border, resulted in the expulsion of all Americans from the FDN camp, said Posey of Flint City, Ala. Posey also said the Americans had no plans to participate directly in the war.

Turney said he would not dispute Posey's version of the events.

"It's the policy of CMA that Tom Posey's the head of the CMA and that statement's already been made through Tom Posey," he said.

The story, however, "informed the American public of the ex-

trema hard conditions that people are living in and fighting in to regain their freedom," Turney said, "and if it does nothing else, it's worth that."

Turney said 'Colonel Flaco' had left the camp for Tegucigalpa, leaving him in charge of the American contingent, when the story was published.

"I received direct orders from Colonel Flaco to withdraw the entire American contingency, and under those conditions that's exactly what we did," he said.

According to CMA and FDN reports, the Americans were ejected and the forward base camp closed to reporters after The Commercial Appeal article mentioned its location inside Honduras.

Bill Kurtis of CBS News, who has been preparing an article dealing with the CMA for New York Times Magazine, told The Commercial Appeal yesterday, however, that he encountered some hostility but was admitted to the camp two days after The Commercial Appeal story was published.

According to officials of both organizations, any mention that the camp is located in Honduras causes political repercussions in Tegucigalpa, the capital city of Honduras.

"Hopefully," said Turney, "the Hondurans will realize that any time that the American public can get a closer inside view of the actual situation, that will be a positive step forward for the FDN and the government of Honduras."

In Washington, FDN spokesman Mario Calero said that "the host country (Honduras) is not very happy."

Bruce Bishop of the Washington-based Central America Project said he could not confirm rumors of rising Honduran hostility toward U.S. civilian involvement with the FDN during three weeks in the area.

As for U.S. policy and the State Department attitude toward civilian volunteers, Ambassador Reich restated what he told The Commercial Appeal as recently as last week: They haven't changed.

"We've said all along that these people are operating on their own," he said, adding that the department "cannot go beyond what the President said" about their presence in Central America in a recent interview.



Page, name of  
city and state.)

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE,

Date: 12/13/84 PAGE A1

Edition:

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Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 2-43

Submitting Office:

Rebel group closes

door to Americans

By MICHAEL KELLEY

The Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FDN) is sending home a group of Americans who told The Commercial Appeal last month they were in Honduras preparing for a commando-like raid into Nicaragua; an American connected with the operation said yesterday.

Tommy Posey of Flint City, Ala., one of the founders of an American organization known as Civilian Military Assistance, said the Americans are being sent home because of news reports about the preparations.

He said the FDN reaction stemmed from The Commercial Appeal's disclosure that the rebel organization is based on the Honduran side of the Nicaragua-Honduras border. "Honduras has always claimed (the rebels) are not in their country," he said.

The presence of FDN base camps in Honduras has long been known to observers and participants in the conflict, however, and many reports have referred to strikes at targets controlled by the Sandinista government of Nicaragua by "Honduran-based rebels."

Posey also denied that the Americans entered Honduras in November to prepare for a raid into Nicaragua. Americans who arrived in Honduras while a reporter-photographer team from The Commercial Appeal was present, however, had armed themselves and begun a series of meetings within hours of gathering at an FDN training base.

The New York Times today reported mounting concern at the State Department and Central Intelligence Agency about the involvement of private American citizens in Nicaraguan rebel operations.

The CIA, according to administration officials, is particularly concerned that the Americans could become involved in an incident that would increase already tense relations between Washington and Managua and undermine any hope of obtaining congressional approval for a resumption of U.S. aid to the insurgents, the Times said.

"The CIA doesn't control these guys and can't really keep track of them, so they're a wild card that could cause everyone serious problems," the Times

~~quoted one~~ senior national security official as saying.

Sen. Jim Sasser (D-Tenn.) voiced concern about the veterans yesterday. "It's a very dangerous precedent to have private citizens conducting combat operations against a government that the United States has diplomatic relations with," he told the Times. "These men are obviously very patriotic and brave, but I think their efforts are misguided."

"There's also a danger of being taken prisoner," Sasser added. "Then what is policy of the United States? It could put us in a difficult spot and even pull us into some sort of shooting war with Nicaragua."

A leader of the American commandos who goes by the name of 'Colonel Flaco' spoke openly in tape-recorded conversations about the assault plan with a reporter for The Commercial Appeal, and it was confirmed by other members of the heavily armed war party. One said he planned to be in Central America a month, another for three months.

"What (the reports from Honduras) should have said is that they were there with the Nicaraguans to train them to go into Nicaragua on long-range raids and everything," Posey said. "I think it was just lack of interpretation or understanding down there."

As a result of the disclosures by The Commercial Appeal, Posey said, Americans are being sent home from Honduras and other news reporters are being

~~denied entry to the rebel camps.~~

Posey said he was among the Americans who had to return to the United States because of the news reports, arriving home last weekend.

He said he had no intention of engaging in combat in Central America. During his most recent visit, he said, "I went down to work on a few weapons, to get them into operation — American-made military rifles."

Among the Americans returning to the United States from Honduras is Collierville resident Jim Turney, whose wife, Debbie, said she talked with her husband Tuesday afternoon.

"He called and said they were on their way," she said. Turney had not arrived by yesterday afternoon, however, and it was unknown how many other Americans were returning from the camp.

— Mario Calero, an FDN representative in the United States who also has denied that Americans planned to fight in the conflict, would not confirm or deny the Americans are being brought home.

"That's something you'll have to find out on your own," he said.

Publication of a map showing the training camp location in Honduras, however, hurt the FDN, he said.

"The host country," Calero said, "is very angry."

(Indicate page, name of  
paper, city and state.)

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE,

Date: 12/11/84 PAGE A1

Edition:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 2-43

Submitting Office:

Private aid to rebels reported

at \$500,000 a month

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A retired Army general organizing training for Central American armies and aid to Nicaraguan rebels said yesterday the rebels have been receiving at least \$500,000 a month from private U.S. sources.

Retired Maj. Gen. John Singlaub said the aid was sent to rebels of the Honduras-based Nicaraguan Democratic Force and a faction of the Costa Rica-based Democratic Revolutionary Alliance.

Singlaub, president of the World Anti-Communist League, also said the rebels fighting to overthrow Nicaragua's leftist government are now "in a survival mode."

Though he would not give a total for the amount of money raised, he said he and other citizens have raised some \$500,000 a month for the rebels since Congress cut off CIA funds for their support.

Singlaub would not say who has supplied the aid.

Justice Department spokesman John Russell said efforts by U.S. citizens to raise humanitarian aid for the rebels does not violate the Neutrality Act. He also said that "as far as I know, there's no violation" of the law in private financing for a foreign military force, even if that force is trying to overthrow a foreign government.

Speaking of the Nicaraguan rebels, Singlaub said: "What they need now is assistance in buying the weapons, the bullets, the clothing" to equip new recruits. He said the rebels also are trying to obtain anti-aircraft weapons.

In 1977, Singlaub was relieved of his command as chief of staff of U.S. forces in South Korea after publicly criticizing President Carter's plans to pull out 32,000 U.S. ground troops.

Page, name of  
city and state.)

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE,

Date: 12/11/84 PAGE A1

Edition:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 2-43

Submitting Office:

*'Panther' finds  
'hell' in jungle*

By WILLIAM THOMAS

Staff Reporter

**TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras —** Like almost everyone who goes to war against the Communists in Nicaragua, the man who claims to be the original American guerrilla is known by a code name.

"They call me 'Panther,' " he said, in a soft Southwestern drawl that he claims he developed in Florida, not Texas.

"I put in 20 years in public service in the U.S. before I retired to go fishing in the Yucatan," he said. "I liked fishing, but I kept reading about this business (in Nicaragua) and I said, 'I'm going down there and see what the s— is going on.' "

Panther's way of finding out what was happening in Central America was to join the CIA-backed guerrilla forces who are fighting the Sandinista government troops in Nicaragua. Since his arrival, he said, he has been on two military strikes inside the country.

"I just came back from a four-month tour down there," said the 32-year-old former Marine, who told The Commercial Appeal he hoped next to join a small group of private Americans who arrived at a rebel training base recently to organize a commando-like strike team to go after Communist military targets.

Despite the arrival of the Americans, an official of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), which is conducting the war against the Sandinistas, denied reports the Americans will actually participate in the shooting war. He said private American citizens are simply collecting supplies and assisting in the training of FDN troops.

The FDN official, Mario Calero, told The Birmingham News that allowing Americans to become involved in combat could result in a violation of the Neutrality Act. "I am very wary of breaking any of your laws — I am a guest in your country," he said.

Despite the statement, Panther told The Commercial Appeal that at least one American already has been involved in the fighting in Nicaragua for some time.



"I thought I'd see others down here, but I haven't," he said. "Maybe I'm the only one."

Panther has written an exclusive first-person account of his experiences as a guerrilla warrior in the FDN. This account will be published by The Commercial Appeal tomorrow in a special section devoted to the Nicaraguan situation.

An unusual document, it was written by hand in a primitive hospital compound where Panther is recovering from foot problems incurred while he was in combat in Nicaragua with one of the FDN's top commanders.

"It's hell," Panther said, of his experience. "Not the combat part but the other. I thought I was going to starve to death and my feet liked to kill me. I went down there and wore one uniform for four months. When I came back it was hanging on me in rags. Son, you ought to see them people — they got no boots. That's what's wrong with my feet: They're just healing up."

Panther, who said he went into Nicaragua weighing 190 pounds, came out 45 pounds lighter. "I'm still wearing 30-inch britches," he said, "I ain't wore (that size) since I was 16 years old. All them boys come back skin and bones. Next time, I want a good pair of boots, some socks, a poncho liner and a damn hammock."

"I been payin' in taxes for 30 years, but they (the United States) ain't spending nothin' here. You ought to see some of the equipment them boys have — and no resupply. Old cartridge cases that look like World War I, just falling apart. It's pitiful. But man, they still go."

So does Panther. Asked how long he intends to stay, he said, "till the SOB is over."



By Richard Gardner

'Panther' wants good pair of boots, some socks, poncho liner and hammock.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE,

Date: 12/10/84 PAGE A6

Edition:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

No free ridess

**TWO MONTHS** ago President Reagan told a group of Scripps-Howard editors that he saw nothing wrong with volunteer Americans going to Central America to help rebels fighting to overthrow the government in Nicaragua.

Perhaps encouraged in part by his comments, a small (so far) group of Americans — armed with automatic weapons and a belief in the rightness of the cause — is going to Central America to assist the Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FDN), a rebel coalition that is trying to overthrow the Communist-backed Sandinista government. Some Mid-Southerners, including at least one Memphian, seem attracted to the fight.

The first members of a civilian paramilitary team, most of them former veterans, arrived in Honduras a few weeks ago to train for what they say will be a commando-like strike into Nicaragua early next year. Traveling with them were William Thomas and Richard Gardner, a reporter and photographer for The Commercial Appeal. The story they brought back is spellbinding and disturbing.

**WHAT ARE** armed American civilians doing in Honduras? What do they hope to accomplish? What diplomatic and military repercussions could their presence have?

Federal law prohibits private military actions initiated from American soil against countries with which this nation is not at war. In a letter to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee earlier this year, the Justice Department said that the law does not apply to foreign adventures "organized and launched" outside U.S. borders.

That rather loose interpretation of the law, coupled with the President's personal views on aid to the FDN rebels in Honduras, apparently was all the encouragement some Americans needed to accept a free plane ride to the Central American jungle.

One of the Americans, an Alabamian known only as "Colonel Flaco," described why he feels justified in participating in the venture. He said administration criticisms of last month's election in Nicaragua have convinced him there is no legitimate government in Nicaragua to overthrow.

~~Some~~ people are questioning whether they have any business in Central America, says Flaco: "The hell it's not our business. If the line is not drawn, in five years we could be defending Arizona."

Flaco says he and the others are there not for the money (he claims there is none), but for the honor of fighting communism. Those are noble sentiments. But are Flaco and his fellow soldiers, however honorable their motives, performing a service for this country, or are they posing a threat by provoking the Nicaraguan government into action across its border?

In Washington, a political affairs counselor for the Nicaraguan government said his nation will consider the U.S. government responsible if Flaco and his men carry out their threat to invade Nicaragua: "It is the duty and obligation of the United States under international law to put a stop to this kind of activity."

FBI spokesman Lane Bonner says that "planning to go on commando raids and going on commando raids are two different things." He's right, of course. By discussing their plans in advance, Flaco and his men may be trying to use the publicity to recruit more American soldiers or to raise money for the cause. Regardless of their intentions, these armed adventurers should be seen as a potential threat to world peace.

WHAT FLACO and his men really plan to do, however, may be less important than the administration's reaction to them. Not only are the President's comments last month that this country has a "well-established tradition" of allowing or encouraging private citizens to join foreign wars short-sighted and erroneous, but the administration's lackadaisical attitude toward the Americans who have gone to Central America may be creating as well an international monster over which it will have no control.

Flaco and his men will discover soon enough that there are no free rides. How long will it take the administration to see that only trained diplomats should work toward stability in Central America? It is setting a dangerous precedent to look on with amusement at well-intentioned, naive men playing at war.

(Page, name of  
city and state.)

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE,

Date: 12/9/84 PAGE A1

Edition:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

Some came to strike

back at Castro

By WILLIAM THOMAS

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — The guerrilla war that has attracted a small, private band of Americans to the jungles of Honduras and Nicaragua is without pomp or ceremony.

Here are no military bands, no drums, no bugles, no shabby parades with column after column of smartly-dressed soldiers marching past reviewing stands with flags waving, brass shining and John Philip Sousa sounding the beat.

On the contrary, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) has fielded a ragtag army composed mainly of peasants who wear whatever pieces of uniforms they can get and slip across the border with whatever weapons that happen to have been captured from the Communist-backed Sandinistas.

For the most part, the guerrillas leave quietly at dawn — in parties of 20 or more — moving out of Honduran base camps while the mist is still low in the mountains, past cook shacks that are just beginning to come to life; past new volunteer troops that are just falling out for the day for the most basic kind of training before they themselves go back into the country.

Not all are Nicaraguans.

One recent morning, for example, three Cubans joined a guerrilla patrol for five days across the border. One was identified as Haber Matos, 66, who was with Fidel Castro in the early days of the Cuban revolution. When trouble developed between the two men, Castro imprisoned Matos for 20 years. Since his release in 1979, Matos has been looking for ways to strike back at Castro.

"We come here to show that not all Cubans are on the side of the Communists," said Felix Toledo, who acts as interpreter for Matos, a former professor. "We believe if Castro is involved on the other (Sandinista) side then we should be involved on this side."

The Cubans were issued guns, ammunition and bags of beans and rice to sustain them in the jungle. Then, in recognition of Matos' age and status, they were given donkeys to ride on the trail behind a small force of about 22 guerrillas.

They rode off into the mist — the aging Matos looking like Don Quixote — two days before the first members of an American paramilitary group arrived. The Americans, including some members of the Alabama-based Civilian-Military Assistance (CMA), announced they, too, had hopes of going into Nicaragua as soon as a commando-like team could be trained.



By Richard Gardner

Patrol with Cubans heads into the mists of Honduras.



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# Calero key fits door to jungle war

By **WILLIAM THOMAS**

Staff Reporter

**TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras** — If you want to come to the war in Nicaragua — and there are those who do — the man to see is Mario Calero, the fixer.

Calero is a 6-foot-2, 220-pound, hard-smoking, fast-talking, tough-bargaining, Reagan-boosting, Americanized Nicaraguan who lives in a pleasant, lower middle-class neighborhood in Kenner, La., a few miles from the New Orleans airport.

Although somebody else's name appears on his mailbox, there is nothing about the house to indicate this is the checkpoint through which tons of supplies and a steady stream of people pass on their way from the United States to the Nicaraguan border. It's also the place where the FDN newspaper, Boletin, is launched.

Calero, a wheeler-dealer with a gruff but straightforward manner, is a man with connections in high places: His brother is Adolfo Calero, the president and commandante of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), which is conducting the war against the Communist-backed Sandinista government.

It was Mario Calero, proud of his service as a U.S. Marine, who gave the speech at a Memphis VFW post Aug. 1 that was responsible for an ill-fated trip to the Nicaraguan war zone by six Mid-Southerners. Two of them were killed when the helicopter in which they were riding was shot down Sept. 1.

It was also Calero who arranged for a private group of Americans to fly to Honduras just a few days ago to start training an integrated special forces team for a commando raid into Nicaragua soon after the first of the year.

If that raid comes to pass, it will be a dramatic escalation by private U.S. citizens who until now have claimed that their only role in the war has been to offer training and to collect medical and other non-combat supplies for FDN's anti-Communist forces.

Probably the most active organization taking this position was Civilian Military Assistance (CMA), the Alabama-based paramilitary group headed by Decatur produce dealer Tom Posey. Although Posey has maintained that the CMA has done nothing more than round up field supplies and give advice, many of the people now planning to get into the shooting war are CMA members. Among them is Jim Turney of Collier-ville, regional director of the CMA.

Turney and two other CMA members from the Memphis area — Lou McKnight, a truck driver, and David Ormand, a nurse — delivered a load of medical supplies to Calero just a week before they were scheduled to leave for Honduras on what has turned out to be a mission to go into Nicaragua. (Only McKnight stayed behind to work on a cargo plane recently purchased by the FDN for \$60,000.)

Before leaving for the Nicaraguan-Honduras border, the Americans met with Calero and the man who says he will command a mixed special forces team when it goes after strategic military targets in Nicaragua. The man calls himself 'Jack' when he is in the United States and 'Colonel Flaco' when he is in Central America.

Meetings took place both in Calero's home outside New Orleans and at the nearby Contempra Motel. The CMA and FDN do so much business at the motel that members are given special rates. Their identities are carefully guarded.

Flaco is the motel's most mysterious guest. Not only is he a close friend of Calero's, he also has the respect of Enrique Bermudez, the director of military operations for FDN's guerrilla army. Both men guard Flaco's identity as if it were a military secret.

When a reporter for The Commercial Appeal asked

Calero, "Who's Jack," he was told, "Don't ask."

This much is known: He is man in his late 30s or early 40s of very slight build, which explains the Spanish nickname, which means thin. He speaks with a soft Southern voice, and drives an expensive new van with Alabama plates. His hair is grayish and cut short. He has pale blue eyes and a trim brown mustache. He carries money from El Salvador and Honduras. And he has a gift for dodging cameras.

"It's not that I'm hiding from anything," he said. "It's just that I'm in enough danger already." When pressed, he said, "You're trying to nail me down. I don't want to make it look like there's this exalted American person down there (Central America) that's got this mystique about him and people want to come down and fight for me. It's not me. It's always we."

Nevertheless Flaco was clearly in charge of everything except getting the supplies and the people to Honduras. And that was Calero's job.

He does it with connections with TACA International Airlines, where he is on the friendliest terms. Whenever people are flying to Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital, for the FDN, Calero is able to get the airlines to carry an extraordinary amount of baggage in their names. What's more, the baggage goes through customs in Honduras like a wisp of smoke, virtually untouched, if seen at all.

At the airport men and supplies are met by FDN officials who quickly spirit them away to a highly secret base on the outskirts of the city, only a day's journey from the border. And the war.

*A reporter and a photographer for The Commercial Appeal have just returned from the Honduran-Nicaraguan border where they covered the rebels who are waging a guerrilla war against the Communist-backed government of Nicaragua. While there they discovered a group of Americans preparing to join a special forces team in a commando-like raid into Nicaragua. This story is based on their findings along the border.*



Mule train heads for Nicaraguan border with supplies for FDN guerrilla troops.

Photos by Richard Gardner



**Mario Calero, in Louisiana, ponders problems  
of supplying an army.**

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Rebels ease into

fragile alliance

By **WILLIAM THOMAS**

Staff Reporter

**TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras** — The last walking stick used by James Powell of Memphis is being kept, like a valued military trophy, in the jungle headquarters of the commander of the guerrilla war against the government of Nicaragua.

Powell, one of two Americans killed when their helicopter was shot down a few miles inside Nicaragua on Sept. 1, left the stick behind when he took off for the scene of an attack on a Sandinista military training school.

To Enrique Bermudez, the man who heads the military command for the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), Powell's stick symbolizes his sacrifice, but it also stands as a vivid reminder of the political dangers in allowing Americans to become involved in the shooting war.

Those dangers took on added weight in the last few days after The Commercial Appeal's disclosure that a private group of Americans are joining a commando team that plans to go after key military targets in Nicaragua early next year.

Bermudez, who was interviewed shortly before that plan was made public, said American involvement in the war is a touchy issue that has worried the FDN ever since the deaths of Powell, a Vietnam veteran who used the cane because of an injured back, and Dana Parker, a Huntsville, Ala., policeman.

At the time of their deaths, Bermudez said, "we were very worried that American personnel were involved because the U.S. election campaign was coming up, and we feared political adversaries would attack President Reagan's Central American policy."

(Since Reagan has been a staunch supporter of covert aid for the FDN, Bermudez did not want to do anything to hurt the President's chances for re-election. Although Congress has shut off the aid, the FDN is sure Reagan is the key to getting that aid restored by March. The night Reagan was re-elected, the whole camp celebrated by firing thousands of rounds of precious ammunition into the air.)

What happened to Powell and Parker, Bermudez says, was the result of a coincidence — they happened to be training a helicopter pilot at this particular jungle base at the same time an air attack was being made on the Sandinista military school.

"We already had that operation going on, and they asked us to participate in that mission," Bermudez said. "They wanted to go. I told them it was very risky, very dangerous. They said they know the risk, they want to help."

Although Bermudez insists the objective was a rescue mission, he said the helicopter was definitely armed. "We had to have the capacity to make the rescue," he said. "If a plane was shot down in an area controlled by the Sandinistas, the helicopter had to have some weapons to give cover fire for the rescue. For that reason the helicopter was armed with rockets."

The destruction of the helicopter was nothing short of disaster for the FDN. Not only were two Americans and one Nicaraguan pilot killed, the crash cost the FDN its only helicopter. Since then, supplying troops across the border has been an ordeal. The affair also stirred up a controversy over American participation in the war.

Bermudez says this question is a lot more significant than the uproar over the CIA's guerrilla warfare manual — the one that gave new meaning to the word "neutralize." As it turns out, the manual was never used in the training of peasant troops who make up more than 90 percent of the FDN forces. For those people the war is without psychological subtleties.

"It was a scandal for nothing," Bermudez said. "We have a very short time to train people (no more than two months before they go back into Nicaragua). We already know how to behave with the population. We have been able to keep the popular support. The population is friendly. So the manual was not important to teach us what we been doing before the manual."

The subject of Americans engaging in the shooting war is another matter — one that Bermudez sees as fraught with political pitfalls.

"We condemn the Sandinistas for bringing internationalists from everywhere in the world to participate in the army and the government. So we proclaim that our army is the real Nicaraguan army because it is composed of Nicaraguans. If we start to use foreigners, that will give us less power to attack the Sandinistas."

Although Bermudez apparently feels outsiders can help most by giving aid, supplies and technical training, he did not to close the door on Americans going into Nicaragua shooting.

"We have to be very cautious," he said. "It can bring us some problems, at least in this stage of the fight. But in a more advanced phase, that might change." In fact, he added, "I think that (American) participation in combat could happen in the future."

Thus Bermudez left the door open for American citizens to get into the fight at the right time.

It was time not long in coming. A day or so after he made those statements, the first members of an American paramilitary group arrived at the base — and slipped through the door.



A reporter and a photographer for *The Commercial Appeal* have just returned from the Honduran-Nicaraguan border, where they covered the rebels who are waging a guerrilla war against the Communist-backed government of Nicaragua. While there they discovered a group of Americans preparing to join a special forces team in a commando-like raid into Nicaragua. This story is based on their findings on the border.



Enrique Bermudez (right) is in charge of the jungle headquarters.

By Richard Gardner



By Richard Gardner

Russian rocket launcher part of Bermudez's arsenal

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**U.S. urged  
to thwart  
war force**

By JAMES W. BROSNAN  
and MARY DEIBEL

From The Commercial Appeal  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government has a "duty" to prevent a civilian group from launching commando attacks against Nicaragua, a top Nicaraguan embassy official said yesterday.

Reagan administration officials said there is nothing they can do about U.S. citizens making paramilitary plans once they are outside this country, however.

Francisco Campbell, political affairs counselor here for Nicaragua's Sandinista government, said his nation will consider Washington responsible if U.S. volunteers carry out their threat to enter Nicaragua early next year to destroy strategic military targets.

The leader of the paramilitary outfit, an Alabamian code-named Colonel Floco, told The Commercial Appeal he hopes to recruit as many as 30 U.S. volunteers to join 70 Nicaraguan rebels, known as Contras, for an elite commando unit. At least 10 Americans, including Floco and members of the Civilian Military Assistance group based in the Mid-South, already are in Honduras preparing for the strikes.

"It is the duty and obligation of the U.S. under international law to put a stop to this kind of activity," said Campbell.

Indeed, President Reagan has encouraged the paramilitary action, Campbell said. He was referring to an October interview Reagan gave Scripps-Howard editors in which he said that the actions of U.S. citizens aiding the Contras were in the "long, honorable tradition" of the nation and that he would be inclined not to interfere.

White House officials yesterday referred inquiries about citizen commando raids against Nicaragua to the State Department. Spokesmen there said it is the Justice Department's responsibility to look into the legality of civilian involvement in foreign conflicts involving countries with which the United States is at peace.

At the Justice Department, spokesman

~~John Russell~~ professed personal surprise at the civilian group's presence in Central America at the apparent escalation of U.S. volunteer involvement, which has been confined to helping equip and train Contra forces.

However, Russell said that, based on press reports, "there's nothing we can do. If they're out of the country we can't bring any action."

He also referred questions to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which has been monitoring the activities of Civilian Military Assistance.

"We are not going to comment on ongoing investigations or what we know about these groups," FBI spokesman Lane Bonner said. Once the FBI completes any investigation, he added, "the Justice Department makes the decision whether to prosecute."

Bonner also said that "planning to go on commando raids and going on commando raids are two different things."

The Justice Department position, outlined in a letter this fall to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is that federal law prohibits military expeditions from being mounted from U.S. soil but does not bar assistance to foreign adventures "organized and launched" outside U.S. borders. The letter also said that prosecutors would have to prove that any group was organized or financed with the "intent" to participate in armed hostilities.

The letter was prompted by bipartisan concern in the House and Senate over the apparent increase in citizen involvement since Congress voted to suspend covert aid to the Nicaraguan Contras. Reagan must go back to Congress in March if he wants more money for the Contras.

Rep. Bill Alexander (D-Ark.) yesterday saw the statements by Floco as just a continuation of the Reagan administration's "war" against Nicaragua.

"They are exporting terrorism and violence against international law and the intent of Congress. They (the volunteers) are terrorists, paid mercenaries. Just because the President condones it does not make it right."

Bosco Matamoras, the spokesman for the Nicaraguan Democratic Force in Washington, said that despite the plans by the U.S. civilians he does not foresee a change in the rebel group's policy against using foreigners in combat.

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# *Misfortune tarnishes Honduran adventure*



By **WILLIAM THOMAS**

Staff Reporter

**TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras** — He was a soldier of misfortune, and already his bad luck has caused trouble for a group of Americans and their plan to join the shooting war in Nicaragua.

That plan — a commando-like raid on Communist military targets early next year — was made public by The Commercial Appeal yesterday after the newspaper learned that the first members of a civilian paramilitary team have arrived at a jungle training base a few miles from the Nicaraguan border. The base is operated by the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) which is waging a guerrilla war against the Sandinista government.

Among the first American volunteers to arrive in Honduras — and the first to leave a few days later — was a pistol-wielding misadventurer from Lawton, Okla., named Richard Thompson. Like the other Americans, Thompson said he is a war veteran but no longer has any connection with the U.S. government.

Thompson said he became interested in the Nicaraguan struggle after reading of the deaths of two Mid-Southerners — James Powell of Memphis and Dana Parker of Huntsville, Ala. — who were killed when the FDN helicopter in which they were riding was shot down Sept. 1.

Thompson, 38, who was working as a security guard in California, said he contacted a friend of Parker's who put him

~~in touch~~ with Tom Posey, the director of Civilian-Military Assistance (CMA) in Decatur, Ala. The CMA had sponsored the ill-fated trip to Central America last fall, presumably to deliver medical supplies to FDN forces and to offer help in the form of technical advice and training.

Thompson claims he was offered a chance to go to Honduras as an adviser, but did not know until later that a plan was being hatched to train a private American team for combat in Nicaragua.

Although Thompson says nobody actually promised him he would be paid for his services, he assumed this would be the case. "I just didn't believe people would come down here for nothing," said Thompson, who quit his job in California, moved his teenage daughter and elderly mother back to Oklahoma and made ready for free-lance soldier's work in Central America.

He sold his car for \$450 and spent most of the money on a 9mm pistol, ammunition, a new camouflage uniform and a pawn shop camera. Then he got a friend to buy him an airplane ticket to New Orleans at servicemen's rates.

He arrived in New Orleans ahead of the other American volunteers and spent two days in a \$35-a-night motel before checking into the YMCA to save money. Finally, after several days, he and five other Americans were driven to the airport for the flight to Honduras, with the FDN paying the fares. One of the Americans became ill at the airport and turned around and went home to Shreveport.

As for Thompson, his luck began to go sour almost from the time he arrived at a jungle training camp near the Nicaraguan border. Unable to find so much as a cot to sleep on the first night, he ~~put up a~~ hammock and tried to

~~sleep like the seasoned guerrillas.~~  
After swaying in the air a while,  
he gave up and stretched out on a  
hard tabletop in a mess shelter.

At breakfast he discovered that  
all the meals were to consist al-  
most entirely of beans and rice. It  
was a sobering thought. He went  
down to the firing range and shot  
his new pistol 50 times. Then he  
made friends with the camp pet, a  
tree-dwelling mammal called a  
coatiundi. It was perhaps the  
high point of his Honduran ad-  
venture.

Later, when Thompson com-  
plained about not getting soldier-  
of-fortune pay, he clashed with  
the mysterious commander of the  
American unit known only as  
Colonel Floco.

What actually happened  
between the two men is not clear.  
Floco says Thompson had a poor  
attitude and was told to go home.  
Thompson told a reporter he was  
homesick. Then he said he  
couldn't stay in Honduras with-  
out pay. Then he said he had not  
been told the whole story of what  
the Americans were planning to  
do.

Things went from bad to worse.  
The morning he left he drank a  
canteen full of punch and became  
sick. When he finally reached Te-  
gucigalpa he discovered that mo-  
tel rooms were so expensive he  
could afford only the worst.  
Broke and disgusted, he flew back  
to New Orleans the next day.

Mario Calero, the FDN official  
in New Orleans, met Thompson  
when he returned. Later he said  
he was worried about what  
Thompson might say.

"He could make a lot of trouble  
for this whole project," said Ca-  
lero, who decided to fly to Hondu-  
ras to meet with Floco. "I'm going  
to stop American guys from going  
down right now until we can get  
some better screening," he said.  
"We got to go easy. From now on I  
will personally interview people  
~~before they go down.~~ It's going to

be a lot harder to get into this outfit."

That won't be any news to Rick Thompson.

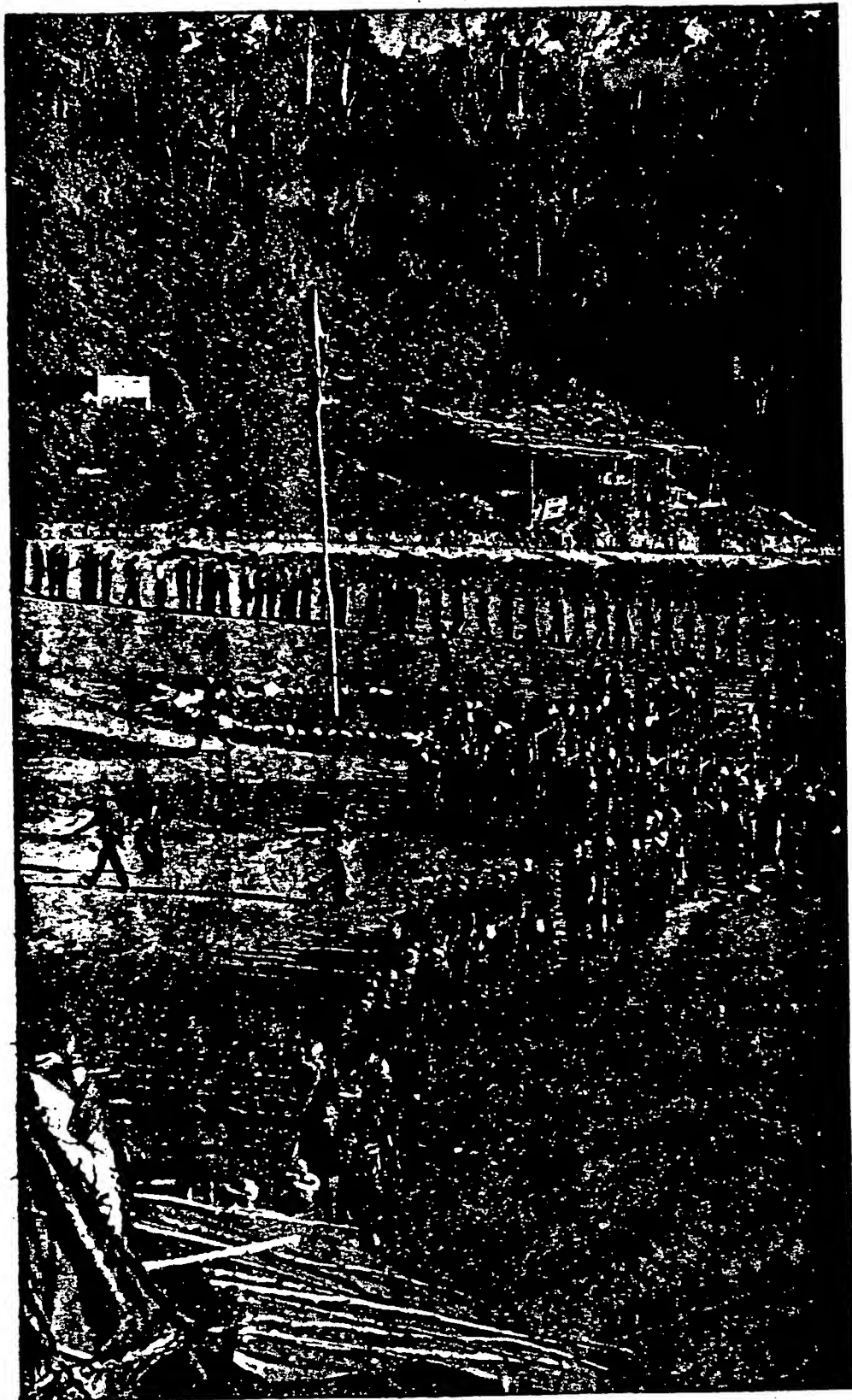
He's already learned that a soldier of fortune leads a hard life. And a soldier of misfortune a harder one.

*A reporter and a photographer for The Commercial Appeal have just returned from the Honduran-Nicaraguan border where they covered the rebels who are waging a guerrilla war against the Communist-backed government of Nicaragua. While there they discovered a group of Americans preparing to join a special forces team in a commando-like raid into Nicaragua. This story is based on their findings along the border.*



Photos by Richard Gardner

Rick Thompson had abbreviated friendship with a coatimundi.



A chow line for the daily fare of rice and beans stretches across the parade field at the training base near the Nicaraguan border.

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# Band beats war drums for Nicaraguan strike

By **WILLIAM THOMAS**

Staff Reporter

**TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras** — A small band of Americans — private adventurers in camouflage clothing working outside the U.S. government — is putting together a war party in preparation for a commando-like strike into Nicaragua early next year.

The first members of an American civilian paramilitary team, most of them former veterans and Mid-Southerners, arrived in Honduras a few days ago and were immediately driven to a base near the Nicaraguan border.

There they plan to spend at least a month training with an elite guerrilla unit of the Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FDN), the rebel organization that is conducting the war against the Communist-backed Sandinista government.

The FDN paid to fly the Americans here from New Orleans. However, their leader, a camera-dodging Alabamian known only as 'Colonel Floco' (pronounced flocko) said no pay is involved and that the men are not mercenaries but hard-core anti-Communists who feel the rebels' fight is their fight, too.

And he said he does not believe the Americans are violating the Neutrality Act. Because the Reagan administration has called last November's election in Nicaragua a fraud, said Floco, he believes there is no legitimate government to overthrow.

"Some administration people will say, 'Well, here's a bunch of half-cocked Americans running down there putting their noses into something that doesn't involve them and is none of their business,' Floco said. "The hell it's not our business. If the line is not drawn, in five years we could be defending Arizona."

But, he stressed, no American is coming to join his outfit for the money. "If we are mercenaries we're getting paid in beans and rice. And that scale is a little low."

Nevertheless, Floco said, his American-Nicaraguan commando unit will be equipped with some sophisticated weapons paid for by private individuals sympathetic to the struggle against communism in Central America.

~~"There are many, many Ameri-~~



cans who cannot come here and do what we're doing. But their thoughts and hearts are in this fight. So they give us financial support and in this way we will be able to build this unit (called Pegasus, the winged horse)," he said.

The Americans, who arrived at the training base without passports, family photographs or personal identification, immediately drew rifles, ammunition, and began building themselves a barracks on a hilltop guarded by a machine-gun emplacement.

They said they hope to enter Nicaragua sometime after the first of the year. Their objective: destruction of some strategic military targets to help even things up in the balance of weapons between the rebels and Sandinista forces. By then, says Floco, the unit could involve up to 30 American volunteers and 70 Nicaraguan commandos.

Initially only five Americans arrived to start the training program. One of those went home as soon as he learned there was to be no pay. Then a few days later six more Americans flew in. Then two more. Floco said he expects others to arrive in the coming weeks.

Most of the Americans, including Floco, Jim Turney of Collierville and David Ormand of Corinth, Miss., are connected with the Civilian-Military Assistance group (CMA), the Alabama-based organization that lost two members—one a Memphian—in September when the FDN helicopter in which they were riding was shot down by Sandinista gunners.

There are two versions of that tragedy: (1) that the helicopter was on a medical rescue mission, (2) that it was involved in an armed attack on a Sandinista military training school a few miles inside the border.

The CMA has maintained all along that its role in Central America has never involved weapons or combat and that this was the case with the helicopter incident. Rather, it said, CMA members have taken several trips to the border to give advice to FDN forces and to deliver increasingly short medical supplies and field gear. As for the two Americans who were killed — Memphian James Powell and Dana Parker of Huntsville, Ala. — the CMA claims they were on a mission of mercy.

This passive role apparently began to change for some CMA members in October. That's when the idea for a commando-like raid involving American veterans and Nicaraguan special forces was hatched.

Although CMA director Tom Posey of Decatur, Ala., is presently in Honduras, it is not clear how much official connection the CMA has with the plan for Americans to go into Nicaragua shooting.

What is known is that the plan has been taking shape for some time and one of its main supporters is Turney, who is regional director of the CMA.

"The conception of the whole project started Oct. 21," said Floco, whose Spanish code name means "the thin one."

Questioned about the possibility that the Americans may be in violation of the Neutrality Act, Floco said: "We are trying to do everything as legal as possible but yet exert our will to help these people in the best way we know how because of the inability of our Congress to act to give them sufficient help to defend themselves."

Floco was referring to the fact that Congress voted to cut off American aid to the FDN, thus leaving the rebel forces — Contras they are called — pitifully short of supplies to carry on the war against the Sandinistas. Congress is expected to vote on restoring the aid in February or March.

According to the current Justice Department interpretation, the Neutrality Act forbids Americans from participating in or funding military expeditions "launched" from the United States against nations with which it is at peace, but does not bar aid to expeditions "organized and launched" from outside the borders.

Although it is not clear what position Floco holds in the FDN's guerrilla army, there is no doubt that he has won the confidence of Contra military leader Enrique Bermudez Varela.

When he and the other Americans arrived at the FDN training base, Floco was given quarters inside Bermudez's compound. He also held long private sessions with the military director and he was made a commander of the Nicaraguan special forces that will be part of the integrated team he plans to lead across the border.

Originally, Floco said, the strike into Nicaragua was to have been a tightly kept secret. That's why the American volunteers were asked to surrender their passports, turn in family photographs and destroy items of identification.

Then the day after they arrived at the training camp, Floco suddenly agreed to discuss his plan with The Commercial Appeal.

Floco said he'd decided to make the covert operation public because (1) the Sandinistas knew the Americans were in the training camp, anyway, and (2) the presence of American fighters might influence Congress to restore U.S. government aid to the Contra forces.

"A show of American support, not just through contributions of food and medicine and things of this nature, but an armed struggle against the Sandinistas and what they stand for would be more graphic to our congressmen," he said.

Actually, since the day they arrived, there was never any doubt that the Americans had come to Honduras for something more serious than the delivery of three big bags of medical supplies, which were collected earlier through efforts of the CMA. As soon as the supplies were delivered to a base hospital, the Americans began unpacking boxes of special ammunition and checking out weapons.

Besides Floco, Turney and Ormand, the others included Bob Bradford of Tallahassee, Fla., and Richard Thompson of Lawton, Okla. After two days Thompson, a former security guard, packed his bags and headed home after learning he wasn't to get paid.

"Nobody ever came right out and told me I was going to get paid," he said, "but this was the idea somebody gave me. Also I didn't realize that they were actually going to go into Nicaragua. I thought I was coming down here just to train people."

~~All Floco would say was that~~

Bradford was being sent home because "he didn't have the right attitude."

Although he insisted that his plan for the American-Nicaraguan unit had the support of the FDN, Floco admitted that "a lot of people, including the leaders of the FDN, are edgy about it."

"They have reason to be edgy," he said. "But at my insistence I finally managed to convince them that even though there is a risk in what we are doing, there is also an advantage. We plan to train out in the open where everybody can see us. And thousands of other (Contra troops) who do not have the advantage of advance training will get to see this unit develop, and what they see may rub off on them."

As for the plan to go after military targets in Nicaragua, Floco has few illusions: "We know the risk. It's about 80-20 against us."

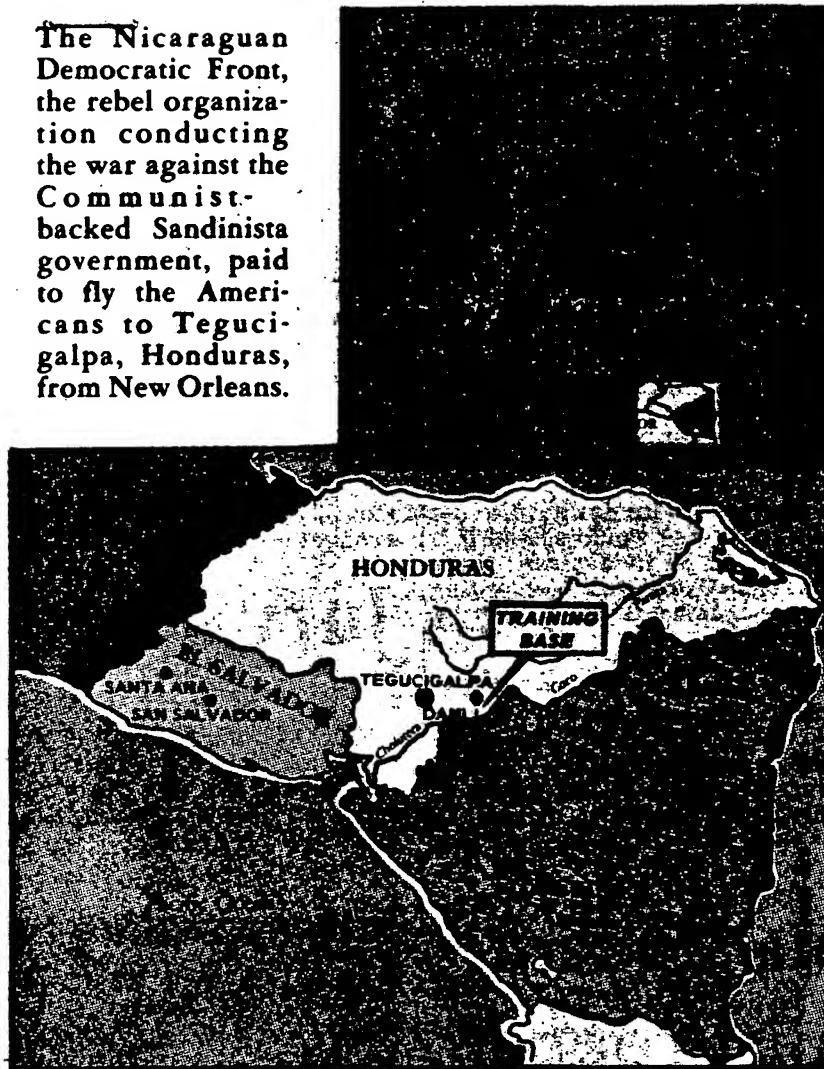
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Jim Turney (center) of Collierville at training camp in Honduras with (from left) two Nicaraguan rebel Special Forces commanders, David Orman of Corinth, Miss., and Bob Bradford of Tallahassee, Fla.

By Richard Gardner

The Nicaraguan Democratic Front, the rebel organization conducting the war against the Communist-backed Sandinista government, paid to fly the Americans to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, from New Orleans.



Staff map

# **NOTICE**

SCAN FRONT

DOCUMENT(S) CANNOT BE SCANNED

DESCRIPTION


NEWSPAPER TOO LARGE TO SCAN

---

## The Commercial Appeal: A Special Report

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/14/89 BY SP5/10m/s

# Goin' To War



2-2681-51





U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

---

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

**END PARTIALLY SCANNED**  
**DOCUMENT**

MESSAGE RELAY VIA TELETYPE  
(RESTRICTED USE)Date: 1/22/88 PRECEDENCE: ☐ IMMEDIATE ☐ PRIORITY ☒ ROUTINE

FM: DIRECTOR, FBI

TO:

Logot Panama☐ White House/WH/☐ Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms/BATF/☐ Dept. of Energy HQS/DOEHQ/☐ Dept. of Energy Germantown DIV/DOE/☐ Dept. of Justice/DOJ/☐ Dept. of State/DOS/☐ Dept. of the Army/DA/☐ Dept. of Treasury/DOT/☐ Defense Intelligence Agency/DIA/

BT

☐ Director Naval Investigative Service/DIRNAVINSERV/☐ Drug Enforcement Admin./DEA/☐ FAA Washington HQ/FAA/☐ HQ AFOSI Bolling AFBDC/AFOSI/☐ Nuclear Regulatory Commission/NRC/☐ U.S. Customs Service/UCS/☐ U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service/INS/☐ U.S. Secret Service/USSS/☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_Classification: Unclassified

## Addressee Internal Distribution

For: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ See AttachedApproved By: OBK/rmkOriginator: RMK

Tele Ext: \_\_\_\_\_

Room/Div.: SD276

b2

DO NOT FILE WITHOUT COMMUNICATIONS STAMP

FBI/DOJ

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/24/88 BY SP5C110MS

2H0318 2222225

RR HQ

22 BH

R 2222223Z JAN 85

FM BIRMINGHAM (2-20) (P)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

ATTN SSA [REDACTED]

ROOM 4251, CID, DOMESTIC TERRORISM UNIT,

BEING.

AKA, [REDACTED]

NEUTRALITY

MATTER-EL SALVADOR, NICARAGUA; CO:EH.

*by teletype dated 1/22/85 FBI Birmingham advised:*  
RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO BH DATED JANUARY 18, 1985.

FOR INFO. OF LEGAT PANAMA, BH HAS PENDING NEUTRALITY INVESTIGATION ON CAPTIONED SUBJECT AND [REDACTED] ORGANIZATION, CIVILIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE (CMA). TWO CMA MEMBERS, DANA H. PARKER, JR. OF HUNTSVILLE, AL., AND JAMES POWELL, III OF MEMPHIS, TENN., WERE KILLED IN NICARAGUA ON OCTOBER 1, 1984, IN HELICOPTER CRASH.

THE SUBJECT ALLEGEDLY HAD DEALINGS WITH MAJOR [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], U.S. MILITARY GROUP, EL SALVADOR, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. THE SUBJECT ALLEGES THAT HE SHIPS SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

Exec. AD-Adm.	
Exec. AD-Inv.	
Exec. AD-LES	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Servs.	/
Crim. Inv.	/
Ident.	
Inspection	
Intell.	
Laboratory	
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.	
Rec. Mgmt.	
Tech. Servs.	
Training	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

b6  
b7C

b6  
b7C

013 PAN  
1/22/85

~~PAGE TWO~~

~~BN 2-2E~~

~~UNCLAS~~

TO MAJOR [REDACTED] TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE EL SALVADORIAN ARMY.

~~REQUEST OF THE BUREAU: THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO FORWARD THIS  
COMMUNICATION TO LEGAT, PANAMA, SO THAT AN INTERVIEW MAY BE ACCOMPLISH-~~

~~ED WITH MAJOR [REDACTED] RE HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE SUBJECT.~~

BT

b6  
b7C

BH0006 0241113

RR HQ HQ LA ME MM MO NO

DE BH

R 241113Z JAN 85

FM BIRMINGHAM (2-28)(P)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

HOUSTON ROUTINE

LOS ANGELES ROUTINE

MEMPHIS ROUTINE

MIAMI ROUTINE

MOBILE ROUTINE

NEW ORLEANS

BT

UNCLAS

ATTN SSA [REDACTED], RM. 4251, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION,  
DOMESTIC TERRORISM UNIT, FBIHQ

[REDACTED], AKA [REDACTED]; NEUTRALITY  
MATTER - EL SALVADOR, NICARAGUA; OO:BH.

RE BH TELETYPES TO BUREAU, JAN. 15, 1985, AND JAN. 22, 1985.

FOR INFO OF FBIHQ AND RECEIVING OFFICES, SUBJECT WAS INTERVIEWED  
AT THE [REDACTED] ON JAN. 22, 1985, AND ADVISED AS  
FOLLOWS:0

1-CC Hand Carried to  
003/ASS 1-25-85

307,697  
3-28-91 SP8 Rg/buy  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/24/88 BY SP5C110MS

PAGE TWO BH 2-28 UNCLWS

HE FLEW TO WASHINGTON, D.C., ON JAN. 11, 1985, AND WAS THERE UNTIL JAN. 14, 1985. ON JAN. 14, 1985, HE FLEW TO COSTA RICA AND WAS THERE UNTIL HE RETURNED HOME ON JAN. 20, 1985. HE IS PRESENTLY FLYING TO DETROIT, MICH., TO [REDACTED] (NAME NOT RECALLED).0 WHILE IN DETROIT, HE ALSO ANTICIPATES BEING [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED]. ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C., HE MET WITH [REDACTED] AND SEVERAL OTHER INDIVIDUALS, WHO HE WOULD NOT OR COULD NOT NAME. HE INDICATED THAT THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE CONNECTED WITH THE U. S. GOVERNMENT BUT DECLINED TO NAME WHICH AGENCY. HE DID STATE, HOWEVER, THAT HE DID NOT MEET WITH ANY FBI PERSONNEL DURING THIS TRIP. THE SUBJECT INDICATED THAT HE DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA WITH THESE INDIVIDUALS AND THAT HIS TRANSPORTATION AND LODGING COSTS WERE "TAKEN CARE OF" BUT HE WAS NOT CERTAIN EXACTLY WHO HAD PAID FOR THESE EXPENSES.

THE SUBJECT ADVISED THAT HE WAS IN COSTA RICA FOR SEVERAL DAYS, BUT HE WOULD NOT GO INTO ANY DETAIL CONCERNING HIS TRIP TO THAT COUNTRY.

THE SUBJECT OPENLY DISCUSSED THE BOWMAN ACT AND SAID THAT WHEN IT EXPIRES ON FEB. 28, 1985, "ALL HELL IS GOING TO BREAK LOOSE IN

PAGE THREE      BH 2-28      UNCLAS

CENTRAL AMERICA," BUT HE WOULD NOT EXPOUND ON THIS STATEMENT.

HE STATED THAT WHILE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., HE LEARNED THAT FOUR ANTI-CASTRO CUBAN GROUPS WERE INTERESTED IN HELPING ESTABLISH A "SOUTHERN FRONT" IN SOUTHERN NICARAGUA. HE IDENTIFIED THESE GROUPS AS: 1) CUBAN BRIGADE 2576; 2) CUBAN LEGION [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 3) OMEGA 7; 4) ALPHA 66. ALSO COMBINING TO ESTABLISH THIS SOUTHERN FRONT ARE SUPPOSEDLY THREE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS KNOWN TO THE SUBJECT: 1) UNITED NICARAGUAN INDEPENDENT REVOLUTIONARIES (UNIR); 2) FDN; 3) MISSOURI INDIANS OF NICARAGUA.

THE SUBJECT ALSO ADVISED THAT TEN AMERICAN INDIAN CHIEFS WERE TO FLY DOWN TO CENTRAL AMERICA WITH [REDACTED] [REDACTED] TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF THEIR TRIBES SENDING SUPPLIES TO THE MISSOURI INDIANS OF NICARAGUA. THE SUBJECT DID NOT KNOW THE NAMES OF ANY OF THE CHIEFS OR THEIR TRIBES. HE STATED THAT THESE SUPPLIES, IF THEY ARE, IN FACT, SENT, WOULD BE HANDLED BY [REDACTED] THE CMA.

b6  
b7C

SUBJECT EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THE CASE ON HIMSELF AND THE CMA WAS STILL ONGOING. HE STATED THAT [REDACTED] AND OTHER UNNAMED INDIVIDUALS IN WASHINGTON, D.C., HAD ASSURED HIM THAT IF HE CONTINUED TO COOPERATE AND TO PROVIDE INTELLIGENCE INFO RE CURRENT

PAGE FOUR BH 2-28 UNCLAS

DEVELOPMENTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA, AS WELL AS ANY NARCOTICS OR  
ESPIONAGE INFO HE LEARNS ABOUT, THAT THE "NEUTRALITY MATTER" WOULD  
BE CLOSED.

SUBJECT STATED THAT HE MIGHT FLY TO WASHINGTON, D.C. ON JAN. 23,  
1985, FROM DETROIT, BUT HE WAS NOT CERTAIN OF THIS FACT AT THE  
PRESENT TIME. HE INDICATED THAT WHEN HE RETURNS HOME, HE WILL RE-  
CONTACT SA [REDACTED].

b6  
b7C

THE ABOVE IS BEING PROVIDED FOR INFO PURPOSES.

BH WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE SUBJECT AND  
MONITOR HIS ACTIVITIES.

BT



DATE: 07-19-2007  
CLASSIFIED BY 60324 AUC BAW/STP/CMS/1  
REASON: 1.4 (C)  
DECLASSIFY ON: 07-19-2032  
CLASSIFICATION PER OGA LETTER  
DATED 03-12-2008  
JANUARY 30, 1985

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

~~SECRET~~

PRIORITY

\$F179TBH MMDE HQ H0179 030\*10130TYSTP 302032Z JAN 85

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.~~

FM DIRECTOR FBI

TO FBI BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

FBI MIAMI PRIORITY

BT

~~NOI/PA #  
APPEAL #  
CIVIL ACT: Santa Sabat Comm. on Intelligence  
E.O. # 12,356  
DATE 3/24/88 OUTREACH OMS~~

~~(SECRET/NOFORN NOCONTRACT/ORCON UNINTEL)(S)~~

(S-1) Appropriate Agency

[REDACTED] AKA NEUTRALITY MATTERS - EL SALVADOR,  
HONDURAS, NICARAGUA; OO: BIRMINGHAM

b6  
b7C

THIS COMMUNICATION IS CLASSIFIED "~~SECRET/NOFORN NOCONTRACT/  
ORCON UNINTEL~~" IN ITS ENTIRETY. (S) 4

SEE NOTE PAGE FOUR

1 - MR. [REDACTED]

1 - FIELD GUIDANCE FOLDER

NEUTRALITY MATTERS

JUN:BAR: {3} 1/30/85 [REDACTED]

~~Multiple Source/Raw~~  
3-29-91 307,697.

~~SECRET~~

b2  
b6  
b7C

~~SECRET~~

NOTE:

(S)

b1  
b3

~~(S)~~ WAS RECEIVED BY SSA [REDACTED] CRIMINAL

INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION, TERRORISM SECTION, DOMESTIC TERRORISM  
UNIT, ON DATE INDICATED ABOVE. ~~(S-1) [REDACTED]~~

b6  
b7C

~~SECRET~~

MM0013 0250354Z

FP HQ JK BH ME

DE MM

P 250354Z JAN 85

FM MIAMI (2-690) (C-5) RUC

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

(ATTN: SSA [REDACTED] ROOM 4251, CID, DTU)

JACKSONVILLE PRIORITY

BIRMINGHAM (2-28) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (2-43) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS

AKA [REDACTED]

NEUTRALITY

MATTER - EL SALVADOR, NICARAGUA, OO: BIRMINGHAM.

DURING THE PERIOD OF DECEMBER 1-31, 1984, MIAMI CONDUCTED  
BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION INTO THE AIRCRAFT UTILIZED TO RETURN  
FROM NICARAGUA IN SEPTEMBER, 1984.

Referral/Direct

53 AUG 14 1985

3-28-91 SP806/amy  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/24/88 BY SP5ci 10ms

Referral/Direct

PAGE TWO MM 2-690 UNCLAS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED AT KEY WEST, FLORIDA, REVEALED THAT

b6 Per FBI  
b7C

PAGE THREE MM 2-690 UNCLAS

THE AIRCRAFT [REDACTED]

b6 Per FBI  
b7C

JACKSONVILLE, AT [REDACTED] FLORIDA, WILL INTERVIEW [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CONCERNING THE DETAILS OF HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE UTILIZATION  
OF [REDACTED] AIRCRAFT TO FLY TO NICARAGUA. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS  
AIRCRAFT HAD [REDACTED]

MEMPHIS, AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, WILL CONTACT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CONCERNING HIS INVESTI-  
GATION INTO [REDACTED] AND OTHERS INVOLVED WITH THIS  
AIRCRAFT. ALSO OBTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING OTHER AIRCRAFT  
POSSIBLY INVOLVED WITH EITHER [REDACTED] OR CMA.

b6 Per FBI  
b7C

b6 Per FBI  
b7C

WILL CONTACT [REDACTED] CONCERNING HIS  
INVESTIGATION [REDACTED]

BT

#

URGENT 1-4-87 1 1111Z

1-4-87 (1/4/87)

TO:

LA 1111Z 1311Z

RR HQ 3- LV PX

DE 1-4-87

R 11 1311Z FEB 87

FM LOS ANGELES (2-43) (17-2) (P)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

FBI BIRMINGHAM (2-43) ROUTINE

FBI LAS VEGAS (2-38) ROUTINE

FBI PHOENIX ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

14 FEB 87 10 00  
FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION

2-2681-

NOT RECORDED  
5/23/1987

[Redacted]

17-000-2

FILED

[Redacted] AKA ET AL; TUCSON CHAPTER CIVILIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE GROUP (CMAS); NEUTRALITY ACT-MEXICO POSSIBLE CIVIL RIGHTS; FEDERAL FIREARMS ACT;

OO: PHOENIX

b6  
b7C

[Redacted] AKA: CIVILIAN MATERIAL ASSISTANCE (CMA); NEUTRALITY MATTER; OO: BIRMINGHAM.

IF THE BUREAU DEEMS IT APPROPRIATE TO ASCERTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING "SPECIAL ASSAULT SCHOOL" AND INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS GROUP, LOS ANGELES IS AWARE OF A FORMER [Redacted] WHO NOW RESIDES IN CENTRAL CALIFORNIA NEAR CALIFORNIA/NEVADA BORDER WHO LOS ANGELES BELIEVES WOULD BE USEFUL IN THIS MATTER.

b2  
b7D

FORMER LOS ANGELES SOURCE IS PROFICIENT IN [Redacted]

2/17/87 SA [Redacted] CADIC contacted, advised that this contact was not correct reff teletype from LAS Vegas to Phoenix dated 2/13/87. SA advised to hold in abeyance contacting former [Redacted] until further investigation is conducted by LAS Vegas. [Redacted]

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

b6  
b7C  
b7D

PAGE TWO (2-438) UNCLAS

HAS PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS A MEMBER OF [REDACTED] SOURCE HAS TRAVELED TO CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO AND HAS MAINTAINED CONTACTS WITH FORMER MILITARY ASSOCIATES AND IS CONVERGENT WITH CURRENT MERCENARY GOSSIP.

LOS ANGELES IS IN CONTACT WITH FORMER SOURCE AND COULD RE-ESTABLISH CONTACT IF BUREAU DEEMS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE.

BT

#

-->

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ Airtel

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 2/26/85

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
 ATTN: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIV., DOMESTIC TERRORISM UNIT  
 FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (2-43) (RUC)

SUBJECT: [REDACTED], aka;  
 NEUTRALITY MATTERS - EL SALVADOR,  
 HONDURAS, NICARAGUA  
 OO: BH

b6 Per FBI  
 b7C

Re Miami teletype to Bureau, 1/24/85, no copy to New Orleans.  
 Referral/Direct

Enclosed for the Bureau [REDACTED]

Referral/Direct

Enclosed for Birmingham and New Orleans [REDACTED]  
 and for New Orleans the 1/24/85 teletype.

b6 Per FBI  
 b7C

On 2/8/85, [REDACTED] Memphis, was contacted and advised he is not familiar with the [REDACTED] referred to in referenced teletype. He stated [REDACTED] Memphis, will often [REDACTED] which is apparently the case in this matter. [REDACTED] referred to in referenced teletype, is a control file wherein he received a report on 10/5/82 regarding JAMES PERRY POWELL. POWELL had rented a plane in Memphis for a flight to Jamaica. The flight was overdue and [REDACTED] was informed POWELL had ditched the plane in the Caribbean and had been picked up by a fishing boat. The COAST GUARD had attempted to interview POWELL in

- ② - Bureau (Enc. 1)  
 2 - Birmingham (2-28) (Enc. 1)  
 2 - New Orleans (2-111) (Enc. 2)  
 1 - Memphis

JRF:cjs  
 (7)

Approved: [Signature]

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

Per [Signature]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 3/24/89 BY SP5C10MS

117 SEP 16 1985

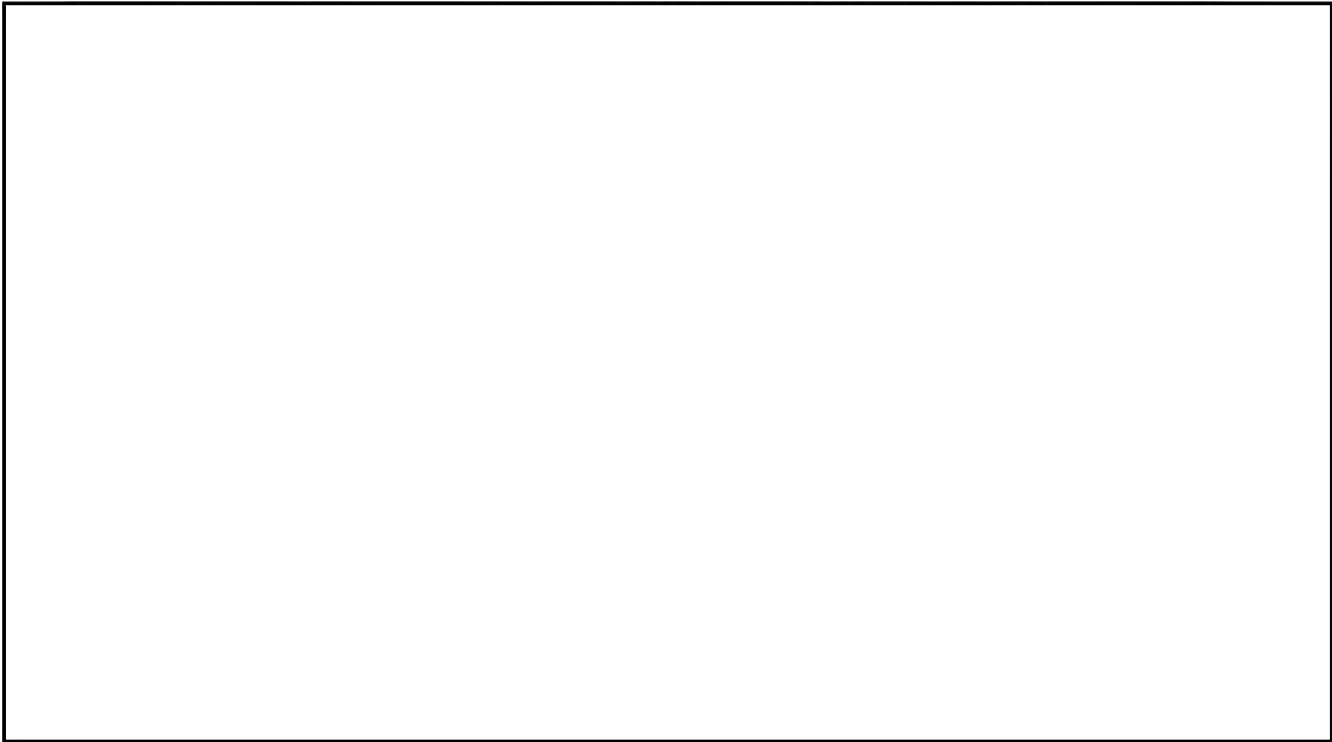
307,697



ME 2-43

Referral/Direct

Jamaica but he claimed to have a memory loss. DEA suspected POWELL to be involved in drug air drops.



TEXT:

VZCZWFO 002

PP HQ BH

DE WFO 0002 06 1200

ZNR UUUUU

P 06 1155Z FWB 85

FM FBI WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE (2-476) (P) (C-1)

TO DIRECTOR FBI (2-2681) PRIORITY

FBI BIRMINGHAM (2-28) PRIORITY

BT

U N C L A S

RECEIVED  
TELETYPE UNIT

6 FEB 85

FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION

307.697  
3/29/91 SP8/ST/BAW  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/24/88 BY SP5C/110NS

Exec. AD-Adm.	
Exec. AD-Inv.	
Exec. AD-LES	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Servs.	
Crim. Inv.	
Ident.	
Inspection	
Intell.	
Laboratory	
Legal Coun.	
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.	
Rec. Mgmt.	
Tech. Servs.	
Training	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

b6  
b7C

AKA: NEUTRALITY MATTER-EL SALVADOR; OO: BH

REBH TEL DATED 9/8/84.

REFERENCED TELETYPE REQUESTED WFO CONTACT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE PASSPORT OFFICE AND CHECK PASSPORT RECORDS FOR CAPTIONED SUBJECT AND ASSOCIATES. PASSPORT CHECK IS AS FOLLOWS:

b6  
b7C

PASSPORT OFFICE HAD NO RECORD FOR

JAMES POWELL, III.

2-2681-586

PASSPORT CHECK FOR DANA HUBERT PARKER, JR. IS AS FOLLOWS:

PARKER WAS ISSUED PASSPORT NUMBER D 1794042 IN SEPTEMBER, 1983. HE LISTED AN ADDRESS AT THAT TIME OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA, 35811; DOB: 10/21/47; SSAN 505-64-8348; HEIGHT 5'8"; HAIR BROWN; EYES BLUE; POB ORLANDO, FLORIDA; HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER

b6  
b7C

MAY 13 1985

OCCUPATION POLICE OFFICER:

b6  
b7C

PAGE TWO DE WF #0002

U N C L A S

PLANNED TRAVEL

AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION WAS GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, PANAMA,

HONDURAS AND MEXICO.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

PASSPORT FOR [REDACTED] STILL PENDING.

BIRMINGHAM SHOULD ADVISE WFO IF THEY DESIRE WFO TO DISCONTINUE  
PASSPORT CHECK OR RESUBMIT PASSPORT CHECK FOR [REDACTED].

BT

#0002

NNNN

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ Airtel

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 5/19/87

SSE

CLASS

SRC'D

SER

REC

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEWARK (2-234) (RUC) (C-10)

[redacted] aka;

ET AL;  
 TUCSON CHAPTER,  
 CMAG;  
 NEUTRALITY ACT - MEXICO;  
 POSSIBLE CIVIL RIGHTS;  
 FEDERAL FIREARMS ACT;  
 OO: PHOENIX

b6  
 b7C

[redacted] aka;

CMA;  
 NEUTRALITY MATTER  
 OO: BIRMINGHAM (2-43)

Re: Las Vegas airtel to Newark, dated 3/9/87.

As per referenced airtel, Newark was requested to determine the subscriber to telephone number (201) 267-7171 and determine if CMA CONSULTING GROUP was a legitimate business.

Results of subscriber check for (201) 267-7171, revealed that the current subscriber to this number is CMA CONSULTING GROUP, address 170 E. Hanover, Morristown, New Jersey. Physical check of the above address revealed the CMA CONSULTING GROUP is a legitimate engineering consulting business.

In view of the fact that Newark has no further outstanding leads concerning this case, Newark will RUC this case to the Office of Origin.

2-Bureau  
 2-Phoenix  
 2-Birmingham  
 1-Newark  
 RLA/sab  
 (7)

1\*

NOT RECD

NOV 27 1987

ORIGINAL FILED IN 44-2792-44

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Number) (Time)

1-CC Rm. 4251

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ AIRTEL

## PRECEDENCE:

☒ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☒ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 2/5/85

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (2-181) (RUC)

b6  
b7C

*CO*  
 [redacted] aka  
 NEUTRALITY MATTER - EL SALVADOR,  
 HONDURAS, NICARAGUA  
 OO: BIRMINGHAM

*AL* *LD8*  
 Enclosed for the Bureau is the original and two copies of an LHM captioned as above. Also enclosed are two copies for Birmingham.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Source referred to in attached LHM is [redacted] who is of unknown reliability. *b2 b7D*

New Orleans is conducting no further active investigation in this matter. *(Signature)*

*hm*  
 ENCLOSURE

*2* - Bureau (Enc. 3)  
 2 - Birmingham (Enc. 2)  
 1 - New Orleans  
 JPS:dm  
 (5)

2-2681-59  
 FEB 10 1985

Approved: *P/ur*

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

Per

307,697

3-29-91 SP808/Bwy  
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 3/24/88 BY SP5C.10m5

53 MAY 14 1985



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana  
February 5, 1985

[REDACTED]  
NEUTRALITY MATTER - EL SALVADOR,  
HONDURAS, NICARAGUA

The following information was provided by a source of  
unknown reliability on the dates indicated:

b6  
b7C  
b7D

Source advised on [REDACTED] that [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] will be leaving for  
Nicaragua in the next two weeks [REDACTED]  
that country. [REDACTED] will be leaving through New Orleans and  
will fly to Honduras first. Source advised that [REDACTED].

Source also advised that [REDACTED] claimed that a truck  
would be coming through Louisiana in the next ten days with a  
load of supplies for the Contras and that this load was to be  
shipped out of New Orleans.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

On [REDACTED] the source advised that on  
[REDACTED] a group of individuals from the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] had attempted to board a TACA Flight to El Salvador  
and from there to Honduras. As the group was going through  
Customs, [REDACTED].

Source advised that [REDACTED] the group  
finally did depart New Orleans aboard a TACA Flight at 1:30 p.m.  
At this time the group specifically [REDACTED]  
requested the return of their [REDACTED].

b6  
b7C  
b7D

Source advised that the [REDACTED] is using  
the [REDACTED]  
staging area prior to its departure from New Orleans to El  
Salvador and thence to Honduras.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of  
the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your  
agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your  
agency.



2-2681-59  
3-29-91 SP8/ST/Sup  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/24/88 BY SP8/ST/Sup

[REDACTED]  
NEUTRALITY MATTER - EL SALVADOR,  
HONDURAS, NICARAGUA

b6  
b7C

Source advised that an individual by the name of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] was there with a shipment the contents of which were un-  
observed.

Source also advised that one [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Source advised that [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

b6  
b7C  
b7D

and is apparently working with the [REDACTED] to re-  
cruit and transport personnel and equipment from New Orleans to  
El Salvador and then to Honduras.

[REDACTED] also advised the source that his group was  
attempting to set up some safe houses in the New Orleans area  
for the purpose of assisting these individuals in maintaining a  
low profile prior to their departure for El Salvador, Honduras,  
and possibly Nicaragua.